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# Billboard

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# Not

ON THE CHARTS

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| TOP CLASSICAL CROSSOVER | #1 | ANDREA BOCELLI<br>/ VOCE (JULY 12/2008) |
| TOP INTERNET            | #1 | HERBIE HANCOCK<br>/ THE JAZZ LITERATURE |
| TOP JAZZ                | #1 | MICHAEL BURELL<br>/ CAL ME PERSONAL     |
| TOP CONTEMPORARY JAZZ   | #1 | HERBIE HANCOCK<br>/ THE JAZZ LITERATURE |
| TOP POP CATALOG         | #1 | HERBIE HANCOCK<br>/ THE JAZZ LITERATURE |
| TOP REGGAE              | #1 | BOB MARLEY<br>/ JOYFUL NO. 1            |
| TOP DVD SALES           | #1 | WHY DID I GET MARVED?                   |
| TOP TV DVD SALES        | #1 | FAMILY GUY PRESENTS BLUE HARVEST        |
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ON THE COVER: Illustration by William Duke  
Photography by Daniel Pelaez

360 DEGREES OF BILLBOARD

## HOME FRONT

## Events

**MUSIC & MONEY**  
Billboard's Music & Money Symposium offers keynotes with Ticketmaster's Sean Morlarty and BMG Label Group's Clive Davis and Charles Goldstock, and a reception at the Maserati showroom. Register at billboardevents.com.



## MOBILE ENTERTAINMENT

The official entertainment event of CTIA includes Content SuperSessions on mobile music, video and gaming, and keynotes with RealNetworks' Rob Glaser and Mathew Knowles. Register at billboardevents.com.

## LATIN

Billboard's Latin Music Conference & Awards features a Q&A with Enrique Iglesias, a case study with Wisin & Yandel, the Billboard Bash, a full-day program on Latin radio and the Billboard Latin Music Awards. Details at billboardevents.com.



**RAISING THE STAKES**  
AEG, Ticketmaster  
Cablevision team up

**RUBEN'S RETURN**  
Suddard sings again  
on 'American Idol'

**THE NEXT STEP**  
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to publisher Kilcullen

**HD DVD NOT RIP**  
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format hangs on

**LEADER OF THE PACK**  
Christian rock king  
Norman passes on

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**>>> FACEBOOK  
BOLSTERS  
MUSIC  
OFFERING**  
Facebook has  
unveiled a new  
section designed  
to let artists  
create profiles  
that showcase  
their music,  
videos, photos  
and other assets.  
More than 80 acts  
are participating  
launch partners,  
including Bruce  
Springsteen,  
Carrie Underwood,  
Justin Timberlake,  
Rodrigo y Gabriela  
and Wyclef Jean.

**>>> BAIDU  
TAKES MORE  
HITS**  
The Music  
Copyright Society  
of China has filed  
a lawsuit against  
Web portal Baidu,  
accusing it of  
copyright  
infringement and  
seeking  
unspecified  
compensation.  
Additionally,  
digital music  
distributor R2G  
sent a legal notice  
to Baidu  
requesting the de-  
linking of  
unlicensed  
content and plans  
to initiate its own  
lawsuit. Baidu  
could not be  
reached for  
comment.

**>>> DIGITAL  
MELDING  
PREDICTED**  
The digital music  
business should  
expect  
consolidation  
during 2008 and  
2009, research  
firm Pricewaterhouse  
Coopers says in a  
new report. The group  
expects digital  
music services  
with robust  
business models  
will be acquired by  
major digital  
players, while the  
weak ones  
collapse. Among  
the companies  
expected to go on  
an acquisition  
spree are Nokia,  
Microsoft and  
Rhapsody.

# UP FRONT

PUBLISHING BY ANN DONAHUE

## GOLD STANDARD

Oscar Victors Score New Publishing Deal

On the heels of winning the Academy Award for best song, Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova have signed a worldwide publishing agreement with Warner/Chappell Music.

Besides their future works, the duo's catalog will be administered by Warner/Chappell, including those songs written by Hansard as a member of the Frames, music from the pair's recording on "The Swell Season" and songs from the "Once" soundtrack.

"It seems like there's a magic to this movie that doesn't stop giving—I think it's great that the Frames are going to get a wider audience because of this," Warner/Chappell executive VP/head of creative (U.S.) Glen Brunman says. "There's a hunger for what Glen and Mar can do."

The deal is another step in the picture-perfect tale of "Once"—and, if history is any guide, look for the acclaim to build as "Falling Slowly" climbs the charts in the wake of the Oscar win. Brunman began working with Hansard and Irglova in his previous role as head of soundtracks for Sony Music.

The 2007 best song winner, Melissa Etheridge's "I Need to Wake Up" from "An Inconvenient Truth," jumped 87% the week after the Oscar ceremony. In 2006, Thelma Houston's "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp" carried the "Hustle & Flow" soundtrack to a 77% increase in the wake of the Os-

cars. ("Pimp" was not available as a stand-alone single.)

Even though this year's Oscars received its worst ratings ever—32 million viewers on average, compared with almost 40 million in 2007—don't expect it to derail the "Once" bandwagon. For the week ending at midnight the night of the awards, "Falling Slowly," the Oscar-winning song, sold 14,000 digital downloads, a 359% increase over the previous week.

Steve Ralbovsky, head of Canvasback Music, which released the soundtrack with Columbia Records, says the duo—performing as the Swell Season—will start a monthlong U.S. tour in April, including stops at Coachella, Bonnaroo and Radio City Music Hall. Last year's tour welcomed the performers with sold-out shows and critical acclaim.

"There's an opportunity to still discover and learn some-

**359%**

Digital sales increase for "Falling Slowly" the week ending at midnight the night of the Oscars

thing [about them]," Ralbovsky says. "We don't want to seize the moment and run it into the ground."

As it turns out, some of the groundwork for the soundtrack's future success was laid



HANSARD, left, and IRGLOVA

in the buildup to the Oscars. In the week before and the week of the Feb. 24 ceremony,

VH1 returned the video to "Falling Slowly" to the air and gave it "gung ho" rotation—the channel's highest level—of 45 airings per week. In addition, it received four additional plays during Oscar weekend as the "Top 20 Spotlight video."

"We do our scheduling a week ahead of time, so five days before the Oscars happened, we had to make our decision," VH1 executive VP of music and talent Rick Krims says. "We figured no matter what, their performance was going to be stunning and people would be interested. It

worked in our favor and we decided to keep it on another week [after the Oscars]."

It's the second round of the video on the channel; VH1 first put it in rotation when the movie came out in July.

"The movie never hit giant mainstream, but we put it on as fans," Krims says. "It wasn't about radio [exposure]—it was about artists that we thought were amazing."

As for Hansard and Irglova, they're looking forward to getting away from the glitzy lunacy of Hollywood. While shopping at Hollywood's Amoeba Records,

Hansard was recently recognized by a security guard who inquired, "Are you the dude from the movie?"

"I want to get home and get centered, and do normal things," he says. "Songwriting is all we need to do. Writing songs is never work, it creates calm and peace, and that's absolutely necessary."

But, you know, c'mon, we gotta ask: What did you do with the Oscar?

"It's already gone home off to Ireland—my mother took it," he says. "I came offstage, handed it to her and she hasn't let it go." ...

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TOURING BY RAY WADDELL

PROMOTION  
WARSAEG Live Gets Ticketing And Fuse TV  
To Compete With Live Nation

News of a blockbuster deal among major players AEG Live, Ticketmaster and Cablevision sent shivers rippling through the live business. Multiple sources confirm to Billboard that a deal is imminent for Ticketmaster and Madison Square Garden Entertainment (MSG) owner Cablevision to acquire about 49% of AEG Live, the live entertainment arm of Anschutz Entertainment Group (billboard.biz, Feb. 21). Contacts at the three companies declined to comment.

This partnership will allow AEG Live to more fiercely compete with Live Nation, which will leave Ticketmaster when its contract expires in 2009. What this new powerhouse will have—that Live Nation does not—is a cable music channel.

Fuse TV, the only current competitor to MTV, has since last spring operated under the MSG umbrella. Fuse was formerly part of Rainbow Media, a division of Cablevision that includes cable TV networks WJ, Women's Entertainment, Independent Film Channel and American Movie Classics.

Fuse, which sources say will undergo a multimillion-dollar rebranding effort in the coming months, will play a key role in the repositioning of AEG Live as a company now armed with a sizable media component and the world's largest ticketing company in Ticketmaster.

Cablevision is a publicly traded company and AEG is private; given AEG retains majority ownership in AEG Live, Cablevision will probably only be able to report earnings it receives from the promoter.

Under the direction of CEO Randy Phillips, AEG Live is the second-largest promoter in the world, reporting grosses totaling more than \$742 million to Billboard Boxscore in 2007, trailing only Live Nation. Ticketmaster stakeholder (and former parent) IAC also owns a large stake in the Irving Azoff/Howard Kaufman megamanagement firm Front Line Management. IAC chairman Barry Diller is believed to be a major broker in putting the deal together with Cablevision's Dolan family, whose sports, media and entertainment holdings are numerous.

Reflecting the growing clout and thin margins of live music, the publicly traded Live Nation has become a more comprehensive music company under CEO Michael Rapino's direction, venturing into merchandising, digital marketing, sponsorships and artist management.

AEG Live now has deep pockets, multimedia, ticketing, a music channel, artist management, merchandising (BandMerch), a wide range of venues, a huge digital presence (Ticketmaster is the most visited live music site at more than 23 million monthly unique visitors) and tour promotion/production in its own portfolio.

Though the deal with AEG Live will not replace Live Nation's estimated 15 million Ticketmaster tickets sold annually, AEG Live does give Ticketmaster a fully developed concert promoter interest and a solid ticketing partner. As the ticketing business becomes more competitive, Ticketmaster will now be able to



CELINE DION (above) launched her AEG Live tour promoted by Ticketmaster in 2008 world tour.

more fully realize its unique marketing power, and enter the risk-taking promoter business in tandem with AEG Live.

This is a logical next move for Ticketmaster, whose CEO Sean Moriarty previously told Billboard in an interview, when asked if the company might evolve into concert promotion, "You've seen an awful lot of change over the course of the past year or so in the types of things that we're doing, and I think you can expect to see more changes as we figure out the best way to position ourselves and provide value. So certainly it's a possibility."

MSG has also been acquisitive in its own right with last year's purchase of the Chicago Theatre and its thriving New York Properties like the Beacon Theatre and Radio City Music Hall. In addition, under president Jay Marciano, MSG has a booming multiproduction in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, and successfully launched a four-year run of the Cirque du Soleil production "Wintuk" in 2007 at the

WaMu Theater at Madison Square Garden. The Garden has been the top-grossing arena in the world for several years running, and has for several months been considering constructing a new location across the street from its current Penn Station home.

Ultimately, the deal speaks volumes about how rapidly AEG Live has become an international force in live entertainment, beginning with the startup (and resurrection) of a touring company brand as Concerts West by Paul Gonsky and John Meglen in 2000, and its evolution to create AEG Live by the end of that year under Phillips.

As these two concert promoters go head to head, there is one area where AEG Live does not wish to compete with Live Nation: 360-degree artist deals. A Madonna's, at The Grammy Foundation's 10th annual Entertainment Live Initiative keynote and AEG CEO Tim Leineweke told the room, "There are those that believe in a 360 model. We don't." —

>>> **EC FINES MICROSOFT A RECORD \$1.4 BILLION** The European Commission hit Microsoft with a record €899 million (\$1.4 billion) fine for failing to comply with a 2004 ruling ordering the software giant to change its business practices regarding Windows. The fine comes on top of earlier penalties of €280 million (\$420 million) imposed in July 2006 and of €497 million (\$747 million) in the EC's original March 2004 decision.

>>> **APPLE MOVES TO NO. 2** Apple is claiming its iTunes service is now the No. 2 music retailer in the United States behind only Wal-Mart, based on data provided by NPD Group. The analyst firm's MusicWatch Survey counts one CD as representing 12 tracks, and excludes any wireless transactions. By that measure, iTunes sold more CD equivalents than any single source other than Wal-Mart. It did not break out exactly how many sales that was.

>>> **TIMBERLAKE, REED TO INDUCT ROCK HALL CLASS**

Justin Timberlake, Lou Reed, Billy Joel and Ben Harper are among the big names who have signed up to induct members of the 2008 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame class March 10 in New York. Timberlake will induct Madonna, Reed will induct Leonard Cohen, Joel will induct John Mellencamp and Ben Harper will usher in Little Walter during the event. In addition, Tim Hanks will induct the Dave Clark Five, Jerry Butler will induct Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, and John Fogerty will induct the Ventures.

TELEVISION BY ANN DONAHUE

## 'Idol' Takes Time

Studdard Returns For Show's Farewell Track

To paraphrase "The Godfather"—just when you think you're out on "American Idol," they keep pulling you back in.

Season-two winner Ruben Studdard will perform the "farewell song" used to play off the losing contestants when they depart the top 12. This year, the song will be cover of Kenny Loggins' "Celebrate Me Home," in a new version produced by Terry Lewis and Jimmy Jam.

It's a significant gig for Studdard, who was dropped by J Records at the end of 2007. He is, however, still managed by the show's 19 Records and is under contract to subsidiary 19 Recordings, a link that paved the way for him to return

to the show as the song's performer.

"Ruben has never left our fold," "A1" executive producer Nigel Lythgoe said. "[With] the success that we've had with the play-off song, I wanted to keep it in-house."

The "American Idol" season-five farewell song, Daniel Powter's "Bad Day," went on to sell 1.9 million copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan, and was the top digital download of 2006.

As part of the show's new sponsorship this season with iTunes, "Celebrate Me Home" will be made available digitally starting March 12, the day the first of the top 12 will be eliminated. In addition, it is expected to be included on



one of the compilation albums annually released by "American Idol," according to 19 Entertainment U.S. head Iain Pirie.

"[Lewis and Jam] were on my list of producers to work with, and to have the opportunity was a blessing," Studdard says. "If they tell you something is hot, you can probably rest assured that other people are going to like it."

"Celebrate Me Home" was selected after Lythgoe suggested the tune to Pirie and show creator Simon Fuller. "Each year we think about what's going to reflect that really

special TV moment," Pirie says. "Musically and lyrically, it fits it perfectly."

Pirie says the idea to have Studdard record the track came after the warm reception he received following an appearance on last season's "American Idol" finale. In addition, Studdard is in negotiations to perform the song during "Idol Gives Back," the show's midseason charity effort.

Loggins' version of "Celebrate Me Home," originally released on an album of the same title in 1977, has sold 73,000 downloads, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

And while traditionally thought of as a Christmas tune, the first line of the song—"Home for the holidays"—has been excised to make it less seasonal, Lythgoe says, and Studdard has given the track an updated feel. —

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Bobby Sato, APD/MD (KCXX)

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Skip Dillard, PD (WPGC)

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Charlie Cook, VP Country (McVay Media)

***"Play MPE is great!"***

Tom Calococi, OM (WPOW)

***"best quality files...I love it"***

Erik Bradley, APD/MD (B96)

***"wav files of excellent quality"***

Lynn Barstow, PD (KROX)

***"best and easiest system out there"***

Mike Mullaney, APD (WBMX)



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DIGITAL BY JENNIFER NETHERBY

# Socially Challenged

Expected MySpace Service To Compete With iTunes, Imeem, Last.fm And More

## >>> CARLY SIMON JOINS HEAR MUSIC

Carly Simon has joined James Taylor, Paul McCartney and Joni Mitchell on the roster of Starbucks' Hear Music label. Her first release for the company, "This Kind of Love" will be available April 29. The 13-track set has a Brazilian-heavy sound, and finds Simon collaborating with Jimmy Webb and Frank Filippelli. That trio was responsible for Simon's 1997 album, "Film Noir."

## >>> MCENTIRE TO HOST ACM AWARDS

Reba McEntire will host the 43rd annual Academy of Country Music Awards on May 18 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. It will be McEntire's 10th time hosting the show. She has won 11 ACM Awards and has 41 total nodes. In 2001 she was awarded the inaugural ACM Home Depot Humanitarian Award for her philanthropic work.

## >>> JACKSON FACES FORCED SALE OF NEVERLAND

Michael Jackson's Neverland Valley Ranch in California will be foreclosed and sold March 19 unless the pop star pays a balance of nearly \$25 million, property records show. Foxnews.com reports that Jackson has been formally apprised of the foreclosure and that legal documents have also been filed with the Santa Barbara County Recorder's office.

Compiled by Chris M. Walsh. Reporting by Antony Bruno, Leo Cendrowicz, Jonathan Cohen, Juliana Koranteng, Steve McClure, and Tucker Ande and Reuters.

Already confronted with ongoing competitive pressure from Facebook, MySpace's latest bid to enter the music business comes as other social networking peers, such as Last.fm and Imeem, are making big audience gains with ad-supported music offerings.

Sources say MySpace is planning a service that would combine free ad-supported music listening with paid MP3 downloads and music subscriptions.

MySpace parent company News Corp. has approached the major labels about forming a joint-venture music site, similar to its partnership with the major Hollywood studios for video site Hulu.com.

The new service would be operated by MySpace and seemingly be positioned to compete against every offering from iTunes to subscription service Rhapsody to social networks. Details are still unclear on MySpace's plans, but it is expected that MySpace will build the music service on the back of its existing social networking base.

MySpace did not return calls for comment.

During the last year, the four major labels have warmed to the idea of allowing users to share music on social networking sites, linking deals with Last.fm and Imeem for a cut of advertising revenue. Music is the central connector on both sites: Users create and share playlists with their favorite songs, find and add friends based on their music preferences, listen to full-length songs on demand and purchase downloads through links to Amazon and iTunes.

CBS-owned Last.fm reported a 92% jump in U.S. users in the span of the last month, making it one of the fastest-growing music networks. Last.fm now

claims 21 million unique visitors per month, close to the 23 million unique visitors of rival Imeem, which has also seen strong growth in the last year.

However, only a minority of consumers use social networking sites to access music. According to NPD Group, just 14% of internet users report getting music through social networking sites in 2007. Among teens

**MySpace is a bit late to the table, to be honest. But it's always a force to be reckoned with.**

—MARTIN STIKSEL, LAST.FM

and college-aged users, it was 25%.

Forrester Research analyst James McGuey says MySpace, with nearly 70 million U.S. users each month, would establish the category if it were to join.

Execs at Imeem and Last.fm shrugged off MySpace's impending entrance. "MySpace is a bit late to the table, to be quite honest," Last.fm co-founder Martin Stiksel says before adding, "MySpace is always a force to be reckoned with."

McGuey predicted in a recent report, "The End of the Music Industry As We Know It," that in five years social network-enabled music purchases will be the primary way people buy music.

Stiksel believes the ad-supported model is an even better way for consumers to get music and for labels and artists to get paid.

"When you buy a CD, the artist and the label get paid once," he says. "On Last.fm, music gets monetized perpetually every time someone presses 'play.'"

Imeem is pushing its business as an alternative to piracy for a young audience that isn't purchasing music.

"Social networking has the opportunity to be the best hope for the online music experience for the fans, the artists, the industry," Imeem chief marketing officer/head of business development Steve Jang says. "If we can do it in a controlled way where we're getting marketing and promotion and also revenue, that's great. It will eat away at a lot of illegal uses online."

Music social networking still has its challenges, the biggest being whether users will put up with ads to hear their favorite songs. Execs from Imeem and Last.fm say users don't mind ads so long as they don't get in the way of music playback.

"They certainly have a tremendous opportunity," NPD VP/senior analyst Russ Crupnick says. "On the other hand, nobody has really done a particularly good job so far of challenging Apple. The thing about iTunes with younger consumers is that linkage back to the iPod. It's hard to separate the device from the music storage and software application."

Ironically, McGuey points out that even if social networking does emerge as a dominant model for listening to music, it could benefit Apple by selling more music online, which could help sell more iPods.

## EXECUTIVE INSIGHT

# AD-SUPPORTED SOCIAL MEDIA

## STEVE JANG Imeem chief marketing officer/ head of business development



**1** Will internet users put up with ads to listen to music? They absolutely are willing to be advertised to so that they can have this access. [The challenge is] trying to get users to pay, whether they're too young and don't have a credit card, or I saw something that a person under 25, less than 10% buy music. Most people born after a certain date use peer-to-peer or burn each other's CDs... they're all on social networks.

**2** How do you incorporate advertising into the site? We do audio, video ads, graphic banners, ad, custom programs with large

brands like Nokia, Samsung, Nike... advertising by sponsoring sections of the site, things like Nokia-branded playlists, site section takeovers... We also do a lot of e-commerce, visual downloads. Soon we'll be launching a ringtone service with a partner... We don't want to overmonetize the site and ruin the user experience. Social networking users have a high tolerance for lots of things happening on a page: what they don't have a high tolerance for is bad user flow. They have bad Internet ADD. If you stall the process, they won't wait.

**3** Imeem has links to download songs from Amazon and iTunes. How many users choose to do this? We are the No. 1 iTunes affiliate partner. We are one of the top Amazon MP3 store partners. People do want to buy music if they really like the music and they want to put it on a device or on a CD and put it in their car. With this revenue model, we're not monetizing digital music products. We're monetizing the user's attention.

## MARTIN STIKSEL Last.fm co-founder

**1** Last.fm posted record growth after it started offering on-demand listening in January. How important is this feature to users? The interesting thing was that we had a lot of people coming to Last.fm even before. For this is proof that people are coming to our site to listen to music, to discover music. They want to listen and share music.

**2** Where do you see this business going in the next few years? Advertising-supported music is a great way to generate revenue. It's an alternative to what is around currently. What we are trying to do, we are trying to offer alternatives to these people in a controlled environment monetized to make revenue off of it. There's still a number of factors that are important going forward. Subscription services cannot be discounted. If you can go somewhere like Last.fm where you can click "play" and listen to any song, why do you need to own it?



When you buy a CD the artist and the label get paid once. On Last.fm music gets monetized perpetually every time someone presses "play."

**3** What is the challenge going forward for Last.fm in this space? With the music, we're trying to get all the music that is out there into Last.fm, potentially tens of millions of music songs out there and getting music videos. We coined it "Last.fm" for a particular reason. It's the last music station on the Internet. —JN

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DVD BY JENNIFER NETHERBY

# WAR OVER

But The HD DVD Format Will Linger On

The high-definition format war may be over with Blu-ray officially declared the winner, but rival HD DVD won't be pushed off shelves immediately.

With 1 million HD DVD players in the market, some retailers and suppliers say they'll continue to sell movies and music releases in the format if consumers continue to buy.

"We're still taking an absolute wait-and-see attitude; the market will tell us what to do," Eagle Rock Entertainment president of operations Mike Carden says. "Those players are out there, and the fan base for music are early adopters."

Eagle Rock Entertainment has put out a handful of releases on both formats, including "Deep Purple: Live at Montreux 2006." Its next slated release, ZZ Top's first DVD, will be Blu-ray-only.

Warner Bros. has twice delayed "Led Zepplin: The Song Remains the Same," set for release on HD DVD March 18. The company signaled the beginning of the end of HD DVD in January when it announced it would exclusively release films on Blu-ray by the end of May. With Warner on its side, Blu-ray was to have a significant content advantage with 75% of all high-definition releases. Best Buy and Netflix announced soon after that they would drop HD DVD, with Wal-Mart delivering the final blow days later. HD DVD player manufacturer Toshiba then conceded the fight, announcing plans to immediately reduce player shipments to retailers and be out of the business by the end of March.

As February came to a close, fellow manufacturer Onkyo said it would also cease player production, as did Microfit, which will sell off its HD DVD add-on drives for the Xbox 360 at a reduced \$49 price.

HD DVD studio backers Universal Studios, Paramount Pictures and DreamWorks switched sides after Toshiba's announcement, but haven't said when they will be completely out of HD DVD.

MVD, which put out its first HD DVD, "Method Man: Live From the Sunset Strip" in January, is switching to Blu-ray for all its upcoming releases that were to go out on HD DVD.

"I can't say we're thrilled," MVD COO Ed Seaman says of Blu-ray's win. "They have a sexier plan, a sexier position in marketing."

Seaman adds that Blu-ray manufacturing costs are double those of HD DVD. The change may also bump back high-definition release dates for "The Sublime Tribute Concert DVD," "Blackalicious" and "Reggae Classic Rockers." Many retailers will keep discs on shelves at least through the first half of the year, while suppliers tally off releases.

Wal-Mart will carry HD DVD through June. Amazon hasn't said it will drop the format completely, though it will promote Blu-ray as the preferred digital format. Since early January, three-fourths of high-definition sales on the site are in the Blu-ray format, the company says.

New York's J&R Music World will continue to bring in HD DVD movies and music, until they stop selling. J&R is being cautious about how many HD DVD units it brings in, though DVD buyer Rob Glatt says the studios are still taking turns on the discs.

"Anybody that bought [HD DVD players] is going to continue to buy releases as they come out," Glatt says.

New England's Newbury Comics stores began reducing their HD DVD inventory after seeing Blu-ray outsell HD DVD 3 to 1 in December, DVD buyer Ian Leskin says. But the retailer will continue to bring in HD DVD on a limited basis.

"We don't want to completely cut it until it's completely cut," he says. "We want to be able to offer as much as we can to the customers. It's still not a substantial risk for us. They haven't told us we can't send this stuff back." \*\*\*

**A ZZ TOP** concert at the Nokia Theater in Dallas will be released on Blu-ray by Eagle Rock Entertainment.

# HOME FRONT

350 DEGREES OF BILLBOARD

## KILCULLEN EXITS BILLBOARD

John Kilcullen, who has served as Billboard president/publisher since 2003, has decided to leave the company to pursue his passion as an entrepreneur.

"I leave on the fifth-year anniversary of my arrival because my entrepreneurial clock was beating very loudly," Kilcullen says. "I accomplished what I set out to do."

Kilcullen has also served as senior VP of the Film & Performing Arts and Music & Literary groups of Billboard parent the Nielsen Co. since October 2006. These divisions have now been consolidated under one Entertainment Group, and will be led by newly appointed media industry veteran Gerry Byrne. Byrne will be based in New York and report to Nielsen Business Media president Greg Parrar.

Under Kilcullen's leadership, Billboard's revenue and brand equity have soared.

Billboard closed 2007 up more than 16% in advertising revenue, with an 11% increase in run-of-book pages. In addition, Billboard's perfect-bound year-and-issue carried nearly 80 advertising pages, making it one of its largest issues ever.

In other gains, the network combination of Billboard.com and Allmusic.com continued to grow with more than 5.8 million unique visitors, and finished the year with a 67% lift in advertising revenue over 2006.

Also in 2007, Billboard events and conference revenue closed at more than 7% ahead of 2006. Licensing revenue was up more than 24% from last year due to a partnership with AEG. In this exclusive alliance, Billboard has teamed up with AEG Live to expand existing Billboard-branded live events and create new concerts, festivals and televised awards shows worldwide.

"2007 was a record year when measured against every component of our financial, strategic and execution plan," Kilcullen says. "Due in large part to an incredibly talented leadership team, we grew revenue almost 10% and the bottom line 30% year-over-year in a market that is down 15%."

Last year, Billboard won the Eddie Award, the top editorial award available to a trade magazine, in the media/entertainment/publishing category for a second year in a row. In design, Billboard won an Ozzie Award for best feature design and two Merit Awards from the Society of Publication Designers.

Additionally, Billboard won the OMMA Award for best use of user-generated content by an advertiser (beating out a Super

Bowl ad for Doritos and a YouTube ad). The Mobile Best campaign was in partnership with sponsor LG.

Billboard identified more than 20 mobile bloggers and arranged access to concerts throughout the summer across America. They blogged with LG camera phones live from the shows.

On the digital front, during Kilcullen's tenure the company launched Billboard in the United States, Canada and Japan and entered a joint venture with mobile industry trade association CTIA to create the Mobile Entertainment Live conference. He also introduced mobile charts to the magazine that have taken the brand into new growth markets.

"I have had an amazing journey leading Billboard," Kilcullen says, "especially in the midst of so much transformation and change including disruptive peer-to-peer technology, piracy, consolidation, downsizing, the growth of mobile music and the era of personalization. Most of all, we have created an enterprising team who respect each other and work tirelessly to deliver timely insights

to make our readers smarter, more competitive and hopefully, more successful."

Internationally the company has launched three Billboard Live music clubs in Japan and two new foreign print editions in Turkey and Russia.

Kilcullen says, "Five years ago, if you had asked anyone if Billboard would fuse together a successful global brand strategy integrating data, digital, mobile, video, live events, new TV, restaurant ventures and consumer partnerships, they would have laughed... and, by the way, they did. Thanks to my friends and colleagues at Billboard and Nielsen Entertainment, we did just that."

It was also under Kilcullen's guidance that Billboard magazine and Billboard.com underwent successful redesigns in 2005.

Kilcullen's senior editorial leadership team at Billboard remains in place: group editorial director Tamara Conniff and executive editor Bill Werde.

Prior to joining Nielsen Business Media, Kilcullen was founding member and chairman/CEO of Hungry Minds (formerly IDG Books Worldwide). He grew the company to more than \$240 million in revenue and created the "For Dummies" brand. He later took the company public in 1998 and sold it in 2001.

Byrne has served as an adviser to Nielsen Business Media since January 2007. In his new role, he has responsibility for the global entertainment, music and literary publishing enterprises across digital, print and face-to-face platforms. \*\*\*



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RETAIL BY ED CHRISTMAN

## WAL-MART STIRS PRICING POT

Mass Merchant Proposes Multitiered Plan

The major music companies have been resistant to lowering their price on CDs, but now they may be dragged to that point: Wal-Mart, the largest retailer of music with an estimated 22% market share, has proposed a five-tiered pricing scheme that would allow the discount to set albums at even lower prices and require the labels to bear more of the costs.

According to sources, the Wal-Mart proposal would allow for a promotional program that could comprise the top 15-20 hottest titles, each at \$10. The rest of the pricing structure, according to several music executives who spoke with Billboard, would have front-line hits and current titles retailing for \$12, top catalog at \$9, midline catalog at \$7 and budget product at \$5. The move would also shift the store's pricing from its \$9.88 and \$13.88 model to rounder sales prices.

While executives at the Bentonville, Ark.-based discounting giant wouldn't comment on the specifics of their promotion, Wal-Mart divisional merchandise manager for home entertainment Jeff Maas acknowledges the proposal. "When you look at sales declines with physical product, and you have a category declining like it, you have to make decisions about what the future looks like," he says. "If you have a business that is declining and you want to turn it around, it really takes looking at it from all angles."

Consequently, "we share ideas all the time with our suppliers, particularly about providing [customers] value and relevancy," he says, adding that Wal-Mart expects a dialogue with the labels on making such ideas work.

Maas referenced the DVD business as a model for tiered pricing. "[It] has been around for years and has worked very well," he says.

According to sources, this proposal builds on and is meant to replace Wal-Mart's "corrugated"

promotional program, in which the merchant sells albums priced at \$9.72 in a cardboard display placed in a high-traffic area outside the music department. In order to participate in that promotion, labels have to meet a \$7.50 wholesale cost requirement, which works out to a roughly 23% margin for Wal-Mart.

Using that model as a guideline, the current Wal-Mart proposal could mean that superstar hit titles that retail for \$12 and \$10 would be expected to wholesale at about \$9.25 and \$7.70, as opposed to the \$12 wholesale that three of the four majors charge and the \$10.30 that Universal charges for JumpStart titles.

But Wal-Mart generally doesn't dictate wholesale costs to the labels; it lets its rackjobber suppliers Anderson Merchandising and Handelman handle those discussions.

While those negotiations have yet to take place, the proposal is already causing agita at the major labels. Some consider the proposal a non-starter, others say further negotiations might eventually yield a workable solution, while a few see it as appropriate, given the big picture.

"I don't think this is a Wal-Mart discussion," is one top executive with a major say. "I think this is a future-of-the-business discussion. Right now everyone is paralyzed."

But another top executive worries that if the majors individually decide to embrace this proposal the same way it did for the corrugated promotion, it would be bad for the rest of retail. That's because for the corrugated promotion, the majors chose to limit the deep discount pricing to one class of trade—the rackjobbers that supply discount department stores. That strategy denied other store types like music specialty chains, independent merchants, and even Target (that chain does its own buying), from having access to the



low \$7.50 wholesale cost.

Some executives raised the question of whether the Federal Trade Commission would take issue with such a program were it rolled out only to Wal-Mart. But one executive says, "Making it legal is not the difficult part. The difficult part is coming to terms with it."

Another top executive says, "The decision might come down to: Do we give up 20% of our business [i.e., Wal-Mart] in order to not lose the entire business?"

That question assumes that Wal-Mart would either penalize or stop doing business with a major that decides not to participate. Moreover, if all majors take a pass, some speculate that Wal-Mart could pull music entirely from the store.

This type of speculation abounds, although the Wal-Mart proposal was presented only as a starting point. As one label executive asks, "Is this a mandate coming down from the upper echelons, which see the category as a no-growth area?" Another says, "This sounds like the Hail Mary pass and if it doesn't work, they could be out of the music business or maybe they reduce music down to a couple of racks" from the 4,000 titles carried by Wal-Mart with larger selections.

Maas declined to rule out those possibilities, but says he'd rather look at how Wal-Mart can help a declining category, especially since Wal-

Mart also carries "a lot of categories that are in high growth... the customer votes every single day in our stores, and based on what they want is how we merchandise our stores."

Still, some industry executives doubt that Wal-Mart would stop carrying music, because in the past it has presented data to music industry executives showing that music is good for the Wal-Mart basket, i.e., what shoppers also purchase with music.

In the meantime, Wal-Mart is telling labels that its proposed pricing strategy will boost sales so much that the labels won't lose profits. Indeed, that's what happened with the "corrugated" promotion, say label executives who have participated.

For that promotion, Wal-Mart wanted all front-line current and catalog titles to be featured on the feature, which holds 438 titles. But what it got was mostly catalog with some sales-stalled hit product from labels, which nevertheless managed to fill each slot in the promotion week after week.

While some labels initially resisted that promotion, all majors eventually participated, even if not with the same level of commitment.

"We have a lot of data on how our customers shop and what they want," Maas says. "Our slogan, 'Saving money, live better,' is in our DNA."

LATIN BY LEILA COBO

## A Larger Vision

Universal Music Group Snaps Up Latin Market Share

Sometime in the coming months, a single music label, Universal Music, will control almost half of the U.S. Latin music marketplace.

The shift comes in the wake of Universal's agreement to acquire Univision Music Group, the leading Latin music company in the United States. Univision, whose holdings include Univision Records, Fonovisa, Disca and La Calle, has a 35.9%

share of the U.S. Latin market, according to Nielsen SoundScan year-end numbers. No other label has had that kind of market-share clout in the Latin realm.

Adding the U.S. Latin market share of Universal's Latin labels—Universal Music Latino and Machete, with 8.83% and 5.26%, respectively—to Univision's will place Universal's Latin market share at 49.9%. It shouldn't, however, drastically change the Latin landscape, as Universal's distributing arm, Universal Music

Group Distribution, controls more than 50% of the U.S. Latin market and has distributed Univision's product since the inception of the label. In Latin America and Spain Universal is consistently the No. 1 or No. 2 label in the market.

Univision Music Group was put up for sale last year, after Univision Communications was acquired by a private investor group.

Universal quickly emerged as the front-runner on a list of candidates; in addition to the Univision distribution deal,



BEHAR

Universal Music Group chairman/CEO Group Morris and president/COO Zach Horowitz have long expressed an interest in the burgeoning Latin marketplace and made strides to develop in that market.

Universal/Univision talks stalled in past months, sources say, over discussions on the promotional role to be played by the Univision TV networks. Per the final agreement, the

Univision networks will continue to provide promotional airtime to Universal artists, much in the same way they did with Univision artists.

Founded by CEO José Behar in 2001, Univision Music has been the longtime U.S. Latin market-share leader. Previously head of EMI Latin, Behar was hired by former Univision Communications CEO Jerry Perenchio to create a music division as part of Univision's media empire. Behar built the company from scratch, signing new and established acts, and later, acquiring leading indie Fonovisa Records, a regional Mexican music powerhouse. To this day, Univision's top sellers are in the regional Mexican realm. In turn, Universal's forte has

long been its pop division, with stars like Juan Enrique Iglesias and Paulina Rubio. More recently, the company has become an urban music leader via its upstart label Machete Music, whose roster includes Wisin & Yandel.

Universal's Latin operations are overseen worldwide by Jesús López, chairman/CEO of Latin America and Iberian Peninsula. An industry veteran who has focused on restructuring his companies' operations and who is developing new business models, López will now oversee the joint worldwide operations of the two labels. Univision will continue to be run by Behar until the acquisition is complete.



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LATIN BY LEILA COBO

## EMPIRE BUILDING

Latin Act Takes Unprecedented Branding Steps

Wisin & Yandel had an epiphany a year ago in December, while playing a 17-and-under party in New York.

"We looked around, and all you saw was kids listening to their music on their phones and sharing the ringtones," manager Edgar Andino says. "After that, it seemed everywhere we went, people asked us about ringtones and voice tones. And we thought, 'Holy cow, this could be something.'"

Today, the market's hottest reggaeton duo has become the Latin poster child for new technologies and brands, cutting deals with the likes of Zune and carrier SunCom, which on Feb. 1 released a Wisin & Yandel-branded and loaded cell phone (see story, below).

Now, the duo is reading its own mobile aggregator company, WYMo, in a joint venture with Puerto Rican aggregator Mymobile. This means Wisin & Yandel will actually own a mobile content company, an unusual—if not unprecedented—scenario for a recording act. WYMo's initial push will be on text messaging and promotions surrounding the duo.

This is all in addition to more typical branding deals, including watches, sunglasses and a forthcoming clothing line.

"We want people to understand that Wisin & Yandel are not just a reggaeton product, but a business product that gives results," Wisin says. "And we want people to understand they can consume our music not just on a CD. It's a mistake to think the industry is on a downslide. You have to make technology work for you."

Although mobile and digital companies have long been interested in reggaeton acts as a way to target the burgeoning—and elusive—Latin youth market, Wisin & Yandel (real names Juan Luis Morera Luna and Llandel Veguilla Malave) have been especially adept at creating opportunities for themselves. That started began two years ago when the pair, merely signed to Universal-owned Machete Music, released "Pa'l Mundo," got new promotional thrust and hooked up with Andino, a marketer who had worked as a consultant with Pepsi and Anheuser-Busch.

"We sat down and made a two-year plan," Andino says. A major objective, he adds, was to have audiences put a face to Wisin & Yandel's hit songs.

During the past three years, and with support from Machete, the duo has been a veritable hitmaking machine, with songs like "Rakata," "Llame Pa' Verte" and current "Señor Movimiento," which spent 14 weeks in the top 10 of Billboard's Hot Latin Songs chart. At one point, the duo made history by placing four tracks simultaneously on that chart.

"We wanted to treat them like a band," Andino says. "That concept didn't exist in reggaeton. You have access to all this audience, and how can you leverage that?"

The Wisin & Yandel team began by making what Andino calls "statements," from a 2007 Radio City Music Hall show whose production Wisin & Yandel paid for themselves, to the expensive cover art of "Los Vaqueros," which the duo subsidized.

But the true gold mine, they thought, lay in the mobile and digital realm, where young Latino consumers were gravitating to the urban marketplace in general and reggaeton in particular.

Wisin & Yandel's first major deal was with Zune. Then, the

duo closed a deal with SunCom Wireless in Puerto Rico, which put out a limited-edition Wisin & Yandel-branded phone in tandem with a series of promotions. One of those promotions involves the duo's trio of shows at Puerto Rico's Coliseum, taking place March 6-8. SunCom customers, as well as customers from other carriers, can participate in a Wisin & Yandel SMS Challenge, where they're asked to send text messages in order to win a series of prizes—from front-row tickets to meet-and-greets—with Wisin & Yandel.

As it turns out, the company acting as an aggregator for the Wisin & Yandel content was Mymobile, a young company eager to experiment with new business models. With Wisin & Yandel, Mymobile will launch aggregator WYMo, initially serving Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States.

"We have the technology to distribute the mobile content," Mymobile owner Nestor Ponce De León says. "And Wisin & Yandel are the No. 1 act. They open an additional line of action for us in the same way they did with cell phones," he adds, referring to the SunCom deal.

A major portion of WYMo's business will be text messaging, fostered through promotions. These include a TV campaign with a local station in Puerto Rico, which will prompt consumers to send text messages via their phones, as well as a Wisin & Yandel "club" where members will get access to multiple promotions and prizes by texting.

Each text message, of course, has a cost.

And although text messages cost far less than, say, a masterpiece, the volume is much higher (Ponce De León aspires to reach the 3 million texts mark in the first three months alone), and the profit share is bigger. Once the carrier gets its cut, revenue is split 60-40 between Wisin & Yandel and Mymobile.

Mymobile, like most aggregators, typically works directly with carriers. The Wisin & Yandel deal, Ponce De León says, is "unique," not because the model itself is new, but because an act has opted to have ownership in the content as opposed to merely getting a sponsorship fee.

"They've realized that although music continues to be heard, there are other mediums too."

This arrangement, he adds, "allows us to market the brand [Wisin & Yandel], keep tabs on the response and participate in a revenue share."

That type of attitude has been constant in Wisin & Yandel's trajectory.

"They are first in line when it comes in investing in their career, both financially and in terms of effort and dedication," says



WISIN & YANDEL, below: At the press conference in Puerto Rico announcing their SunCom/Motorola deal.

Machete president Gustavo López, who just renewed Wisin & Yandel's recording deal.

Under Machete, 2005's "Pa'l Mundo" has sold more than 500,000 copies in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan, and more than 1 million worldwide, according to the label. The duo's newest, "Los Extraterrestres," has scanned 200,000 in the United States since its release last November. Wisin & Yandel also launched their own label, WY, as a joint venture with Machete, with their debut album, a compilation titled "Los Vaqueros," scanning 193,000 copies so far.

Today, the duo keeps digging into its pockets to help pay for expenses above and beyond the label's realm, like its 2007 Radio City show.

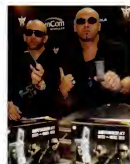
And, "They know how to find a balance between how they portray themselves to their fans and how they portray themselves to corporate America," López adds.

Most recently, the pair collaborated with Franko De Vita and Lemmy Kravitz (on the music for an Absolut commercial) and a remix with Nelly Furtado.

Despite the inroads, however, crossing the Wisin & Yandel brand over to the English-speaking market is still not on the horizon.

"Well, I'd love to, but I'm not going to abandon my position in the Latin market to try and conquer the market in English," Wisin says. "There's a lot of Latin market out there. It just needs to be exploited."

Wisin & Yandel, their label and their sponsors will discuss their new business models during the Billboard Latin Music Conference April 6-10 in Hollywood, Fla. For more, go to billboardevents.com.



## THE WISIN &amp; YANDEL EMPORIUM

## WISIN &amp; YANDEL ZUNE

The duo is the first act to be featured on its own customized Zune player. The limited-edition devices were sold exclusively at Wal-Mart. The deal also included a multipoint promotional campaign and product integration in Wisin & Yandel billboards and videos.

## WISIN &amp; YANDEL SUNCOM/MOTOROLA PHONE

The branded MOTOKRZR K1 handset went on sale Feb. 1 in Puerto Rico, preloaded with the duo's new album, "Los Extraterrestres," a music video and wallpaper. The deal includes a year's worth of promotion of Wisin & Yandel's tour, music, ringtones, ring-backs and other exclusive content.

## WYMO

Wisin & Yandel Mobile, a joint venture with aggregator Mymobile, will launch March 6, the first day of Wisin & Yandel's three shows in Puerto Rico. WYMo will initially be include Wisin & Yandel, driven and will include music, ringtones, graphics, text messaging and voice tones. As partners in WYMo, Wisin & Yandel will share revenue with WYMo once the carrier gets its respective split.

## WISIN &amp; YANDEL SUNGLASS LINE

A reflection on their longstanding image as artists who have always worn shades.



## WISIN &amp; YANDEL WATCHES

Designed by Ice-Tek, their color and ads reflect the album cover colors of "Los Extraterrestres" and the entire Wisin & Yandel marketing campaign. —LC

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## UPFRONT



### On The Road

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## The C3 Effect

Promoter Furthers Chicago Presence With Soldier Field Deal

News of Philadelphia-based facility management firm SMG reaching a new five-year deal with the Chicago Park District board of commissioners to run the city's Soldier Field (billboard.biz, Feb. 14), and C3 Presents' attachment to that deal as a content provider, is interesting on two fronts.

The most obvious is that C3, with this and the recently announced national Harrah's deal (billboard.biz, Jan. 29), is becoming increasingly aggressive on a national level, above and beyond festivals. Even if the deal to bring concerts and events to Soldier Field isn't exclusive, it clearly means that Austin-based C3 has very much established Chicago as a second base. Not only did C3 resurrect the Lollapalooza brand in Chitown—and this was most definitely C3's accomplishment more than any other entity—but it surely will manage to do a stadium show in Chicago when few stadium acts and fewer stadium-level promoters exist at all.

The second, less obvious component of this deal is Live Nation's presence as a contender to operate Soldier Field. The bid to operate the iconic stadium was apparently hotly contested, with Live Nation (partnered with a local real estate firm) and Global Spectrum also vying for the contract.

Live Nation already made a run at operating the Charlotte (N.C.) Bobcats Arena (AEG ended up with a booking/marketing deal there), and the company is known to be throwing its hat in the ring for other contracts.

Among other concerns, Live Nation is now in the ticketing business, the merchandising business, the artist career business, the licensing business and, of course, the club and amphitheater business. Oh, yeah, and the concert promotion/touring business.

Stadiums and arenas, with their sports tenants and government oversight in many cases, are a total different ballgame. But in today's world, lines are completely blurred, and competing with the SMGs and Global Concepts of the world makes sense for this next-gen concert promoter looking to broaden the horizons of the slim margins of concerts.

But back to C3. SMG Sports & Entertainment senior VP Mike Evans says C3 was a valuable part of his company's successful bid to renew its deal with Soldier Field, where SMG has been since 1994.

"We do a lot of business with C3. We've worked with these guys individually and collectively over the years," he says. "C3 is right there in Chicago, they do Lollapalooza and they're active in a lot of other areas in Chicago, and they specialize in alternative type of events."

Of course, Live Nation has a big presence in Chicago, and more importantly, so does Jam Productions, which has brought live

music to Chicago for some 30 years. So why C3 for SMG in the Windy City?

"C3 is not conflicted in the marketplace. They don't have other venues

that they have to book first, and it just made sense," Evans says. "They were the right people in the right time at the right place."

Again, it's not exclusive. "They're in a lot of our buildings and they're not exclusive anywhere," Evans says, adding that Louis Messina and AEG Live are bringing in Soldier Field's summer Kenny Chesney gig, and SMG also has holds from Jam and Live Nation.

"There's a lot of competition for venues in the marketplace that didn't exist as recently as a few years ago," Evans says. "It's not just

Soldier Field Stadium view



getting stadium attractions—it's about once you get them to Chicago, how do you get them into your venue?"

SMG is a big buyer of talent in its own right and partners frequently with other promoters. "I don't want to panic anybody here. We enjoy our relationships with all promoters. We have business arrangements with just about every major promoter out there—some that are public, some that aren't," Evans says.

"Right now, C3's hitting the sweet spot for us. There are about nine different offers right now on the table for me to co-promote with them in some of our venues on an act that's probably going to go outdoors," Evans adds. "They're coming to me with opportunities. Why wouldn't I make use of those opportunities?"

The "sweet spot" in many cases for SMG is in secondary and tertiary markets. "AEG and Live Nation get more focused on the major markets every day," Evans says. "C3 is very important to SMG, as is Outback and Brad Garrett at Police Productions, because those three in particular are working our secondary and tertiary markets from coast to coast."

Well, almost coast to coast in C3's case. "You're not going to see C3 do a show with me in Nassau Coliseum [in Uniondale, N.Y.], or probably Oakland, Calif.," Evans says. "But will you see them in Council Bluffs, Iowa, or the new building in Northern Kentucky, or Beaumont, Texas? Yeah."



For 24/7 touring news and analysis, see billboard.biz/touring.

# BOXSCORE Concert Grosses

|    | GROSS/<br>Date | ARTIST(S)<br>Venue, Date                                                                                   | Attendance<br>Gross | Promoter                                             | FOR MORE BOXSCORES GO TO<br>BILLBOARD.BIZ |
|----|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1  | \$7,062,008    | <b>THE POLICE, FICTION PLANE</b><br>Tokyo Dome, Tokyo, Feb. 13-14                                          | 56,706              | Live Nation Global Touring, CreativeLive, Live Aids  |                                           |
| 2  | \$2,792,861    | <b>ROD STEWART</b><br>Vector Arena, Auckland<br>New Zealand, Feb. 18-19                                    | 20,248              | Frontier Touring                                     |                                           |
| 3  | \$2,763,164    | <b>THE POLICE, FICTION PLANE</b><br>Nissan Pavilion, Osaka, Osaka, Japan, Feb. 10                          | 21,526              | Live Nation Global Touring, CreativeLive, Live Aids  |                                           |
| 4  | \$2,502,251    | <b>BETTE MIDLER</b><br>Concertum at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, Feb. 20, 22-24                              | 16,591              | Concerts West/AEG Live                               |                                           |
| 5  | \$2,192,890    | <b>THE POLICE, FICTION PLANE</b><br>Neal S. Benson Center, Honolulu, Feb. 18-17                            | 16,444              | Live Nation Global Touring                           |                                           |
| 6  | \$2,002,692    | <b>THE POLICE, FICTION PLANE</b><br>Indoor Stadium, Singapore, Feb. 4                                      | 10,990              | Live Nation Global Touring, LiveNation Entertainment |                                           |
| 7  | \$1,496,605    | <b>ROD STEWART</b><br>Entertainment Centre, Brisbane, Australia, Feb. 23                                   | 10,401              | Frontier Touring                                     |                                           |
| 8  | \$1,310,721    | <b>BARRY MANILOW</b><br>Scapp's Center, Los Angeles, Feb. 14                                               | 9,353               | Live Nation, AEG Live                                |                                           |
| 9  | \$1,058,136    | <b>BILLY JOEL</b><br>Honda Center, Anaheim, Calif., Feb. 23                                                | 12,552              | GoldenVoice/AEG Live                                 |                                           |
| 10 | \$919,527      | <b>THE POLICE, FICTION PLANE</b><br>The Venetian Arena, Macau, China, Feb. 1                               | 7,416               | Live Nation Global Touring, In-House                 |                                           |
| 11 | \$808,469      | <b>LINKIN PARK, COHEED AND CAMBRIA, CHIDODS</b><br>Bell Centre, Montreal, Feb. 22                          | 14,487              | Gilbert Entertainment Group                          |                                           |
| 12 | \$777,184      | <b>BARRY MANILOW</b><br>Hollywoodia Arena, Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 19                                         | 10,808              | Live Nation                                          |                                           |
| 13 | \$706,575      | <b>VAN MORRISON</b><br>Phoenix Symphony Symphony Center, Dallas, Dec. 29-30                                | 3,588               | AEG Live                                             |                                           |
| 14 | \$702,781      | <b>BARRY MANILOW</b><br>Verizon Center, Washington, D.C., Feb. 9                                           | 7,338               | Live Nation                                          |                                           |
| 15 | \$582,636      | <b>MICHAEL SUBLÉ, NATURALLY 7</b><br>UCF Arena, Orlando, Fla., Feb. 23                                     | 7,502               | Beaver Productions                                   |                                           |
| 16 | \$574,339      | <b>LINKIN PARK, COHEED AND CAMBRIA, CHIDODS</b><br>First Energy Center, St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 19           | 12,420              | Jam Productions                                      |                                           |
| 17 | \$573,035      | <b>MICHAEL SUBLÉ, NATURALLY 7</b><br>Verizon National Arena, Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 24                   | 8,907               | Beaver Productions                                   |                                           |
| 18 | \$559,952      | <b>LINKIN PARK, COHEED AND CAMBRIA, CHIDODS</b><br>John Jay Center, London, Ontario, Feb. 23               | 9,730               | Live Nation                                          |                                           |
| 19 | \$551,325      | <b>JILL SCOTT, RAHEEM DEVAUGHN</b><br>Fox Theatre, Atlanta, Feb. 22-23                                     | 8,932               | CO Enterprises                                       |                                           |
| 20 | \$544,318      | <b>POD FIGHTERS, SERJ TANKIAN, AGAINST ME!</b><br>Alumni Arena, Rushmore, Ill., Feb. 25                    | 13,321              | Jam Productions                                      |                                           |
| 21 | \$536,585      | <b>CHRIS BROWN, BOW WOW &amp; OTHERS</b><br>Palace of Auburn Hills, Auburn Hills, Mich., Jan. 26           | 8,873               | Live Nation, Palace Sports & Entertainment           |                                           |
| 22 | \$506,785      | <b>CHRIS ROCK</b><br>Lyric Opera House, Baltimore, Feb. 8-10                                               | 7,330               | Live Nation, CO Enterprises                          |                                           |
| 23 | \$487,137      | <b>MICHAEL SUBLÉ, NATURALLY 7</b><br>Seminole Hard Rock Live, Hollywood, Fla., Feb. 20                     | 3,401               | Beaver Productions                                   |                                           |
| 24 | \$477,460      | <b>MICHAEL SUBLÉ, NATURALLY 7</b><br>St. Pete Times Forum, Tampa, Feb. 22                                  | 6,075               | Beaver Productions                                   |                                           |
| 25 | \$477,050      | <b>JONAS BROTHERS, RODNEY</b><br>Toyota Center, Houston, Feb. 14                                           | 10,542              | Live Nation                                          |                                           |
| 26 | \$439,937      | <b>LINKIN PARK, COHEED AND CAMBRIA, CHIDODS</b><br>Spartan Center, Omaha, Neb., Feb. 19                    | 9,461               | Jam Productions                                      |                                           |
| 27 | \$425,000      | <b>WILCO</b><br>Lyric Theatre, Chicago, Feb. 15-16, Feb. 20                                                | 12,500              | Jam Productions                                      |                                           |
| 28 | \$423,620      | <b>MATCHBOX TWENTY, ALANIS MORISSETTE, MUTEHATH</b><br>Palace of Auburn Hills, Auburn Hills, Mich., Feb. 1 | 8,496               | Live Nation, Palace Sports & Entertainment           |                                           |
| 29 | \$384,356      | <b>ROD, LA NUEVA BANDA TIMBIRICHE</b><br>American Airlines Center, Dallas, Feb. 18                         | 6,457               | Regulus                                              |                                           |
| 30 | \$364,482      | <b>MATCHBOX TWENTY, ALANIS MORISSETTE, MUTEHATH</b><br>Sovereign Center, Reading, Pa., Feb. 19             | 6,339               | MR. Provisions                                       |                                           |
| 31 | \$352,490      | <b>JILL SCOTT, RAHEEM DEVAUGHN</b><br>Piedmont Theatre, Oakland, Calif., Feb. 7-8                          | 5,634               | Live Nation, Bay Area Productions                    |                                           |
| 32 | \$310,555      | <b>ROD</b><br>Estadio Chocho Sosa, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Feb. 2                                           | 9,102               | Regulus                                              |                                           |
| 33 | \$281,765      | <b>ROD, LA NUEVA BANDA TIMBIRICHE</b><br>Domingo Arana Village, Texas, Feb. 15                             | 5,539               | Regulus                                              |                                           |
| 34 | \$253,548      | <b>RUFUS WAINWRIGHT, SEAN LENNON</b><br>Times City Music Hall, New York, Feb. 14                           | 3,923               | Live Nation, M&G Entertainment                       |                                           |
| 35 | \$243,132      | <b>CHRIS ROCK, WHODINI</b><br>Sovereign Theatre, Rosemont, Ill., Feb. 14                                   | 4,262               | Live Nation                                          |                                           |

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# AUSTIN GOES LATIN

## XSXW Exposure For Mexican, Argentine Acts

A Vans Warped tour franchise in Mexico and an Argentine DJ collective are among the international Latin groups looking for statewide exposure at next month's South by Southwest music festival in Austin.

On March 15, a Warped tour Latin America showcase will feature Mexican bands Allison, Delux and Lipstick Terror—though a lineup for a one-off June 14 festival in Mexico City this year under the Vans Warped brand has yet to be set.

"International bands sometimes come to South by Southwest and get kind of overshadowed," says Warped founder Kevin Lyman, who also throws an unofficial XSXW party for bands from as far away as Japan and Europe. But "now it's a real conscientious effort to have different types of music from the U.S. as well as from around the world," says Lyman, who has been freshening up his stateside tour

by booking such foreign bands as Spain's the Pinker Tones.

Last year, Allison played several Warped U.S. dates after showcasing at XSXW, and Lyman says this summer Delux will do the same.

Pako Zepeda, co-CEO of Mexico City-based management company Soundgulf, is licensing the Warped name, pursuing sponsorships (Vans and Monster Energy are already on-board) and building a database of potential attendees via MySpace and the Warped tour Mexico Web site.

Meanwhile, a collective of Buenos Aires-based DJs has built a fifth-city U.S. tour around its March 13 XSXW showcase.

The Zizek tour, named for a twice-weekly gathering held at Buenos

KING COYA & EL TRIP SELECTOR are one of the acts under the Zizek banner appearing at XSXW. Zizek is routinely drawing big crowds for a Buenos Aires club night.



Aires' Niceto nightclub, will also stop in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and Chicago next month on a tour booked by the Kork Agency.

The 18-month-old club's local success in the Argentine capital—co-founder Grant Dull, a Texas-born expatriate, says it packs in up to 1,000 people on Saturdays—led to the recent founding of label ZZK and an effort to book the DJs at U.S. and European festivals.

The Zizek acts blend electronic

and breakbeat with cumbia and reggaeton, in a style the tour's MySpace site describes as "electro cumbia," "cumbia crunk" and "cumbia rave."

"The experimental cumbia scene has been around for six or seven years," says Dull, who along with the talent he manages is self-financing the tour. The Zizek DJs "want to see their careers advance and get more gigs... everything that happens when one goes from Argentina abroad."

—Aysla Ben-Yehuda



For news and developments relating to the Billboard Latin Music Awards, see [billboardevents.com](http://billboardevents.com).



## Latin Notas

LEILA COBO [lcobo@billboard.com](mailto:lcobo@billboard.com)

# Teen Tune-Out

## Spanish-Language Radio Listenership Is Up—But Not With Young People

Who's listening to radio?

According to Arbitron's latest Listening Trends report for fall 2007, it isn't teens. Radio listenership by the 12-17 audience has been declining steadily since 1998, to its current low of only 8.1% of all listeners.

When it comes to Spanish-language radio, that average is even lower.

The 12-to-17-year-old set is barely a blip on the listener screen of all Spanish-language

formats, with the exception of Latin urban, where it counts for a high 19% of all listeners. In every other format, though, the demographic falls to a 6% share (for Spanish contemporary radio) or even lower.

While those numbers don't correspond to the nation's youthful Latin demographic (according to 2006 U.S. Census numbers, about one-third of all Latinos in the United States are younger than 18), Latin listenership overall remains healthy.

Spanish-language formats account for 10.9% of total U.S. radio listeners 12 and up, according to Arbitron's fall 2007 numbers. That share is only 1% less than the 11.9% high that Spanish-language radio registered at its peak in winter 2007. It also continues the general upward trend that Spanish formats have been registering since 1998, when they accounted for only 6.7% of all listenership.

Today, in an environment marked by decidedly anti-immigrant sentiment, the listening share for Spanish-language radio is greater than the share for urban radio (9.5%), rock (7.5%), country (9%) and even contemporary hit radio (10.8%).

Granted, Spanish's share includes all Spanish-language formats—even Spanish talk radio. But the numbers demonstrate that there is a strong and stable population that prefers to listen to its radio in Spanish.

Dividing the sector further, regional Mexican remains, by far, the most listened-to Spanish format. And to give you an idea of just how popular this niche of niches is, its 4.4% overall share surpasses the 3.6% registered by alternative radio.

If we delve deeper into regional Mexican, what's surprising is that the bulk of its audience—54%—is between 18 and 34 years old. That's younger-skewing than the 18-34 audience for tropical radio (35%) or for Spanish contemporary radio (37%). For the former, 48% of all listeners are 35 to 64 years old, compared with 38% for that age bracket in regional Mexican.

This breakdown underscores what Spanish-language radio listeners have long known: Regional Mexican is far more eager to experiment and play new music than Latin pop or tropical stations, where core artists have been the same for years.

aging with their audience.

Nothing wrong with that, if it brings in ratings. But it doesn't entice new audiences of any age to tune in, as getting a variety of names on those playlists is excruciatingly hard.

So here's one long-range question: What will happen to Spanish-language radio's slipping youth listenership if urban stations (or Latin rhythmic, per Billboard's Latin charts) keep dwindling?

With the stabilizing of the reggaeton boom, the number of Latin rhythmic stations that Nielsen BDS monitors is now only 10. More and more of those stations have altered their playlists to incorporate more pop and hits.

We know teen listeners are not what advertisers want, and that factor has contributed to the demise of those urban stations. But the format's 53% listenership in the 18-34 bracket and a 48% listenership in the 25-54 bracket can translate into spending dollars.

More important, with a healthy Spanish-language listenership, surely there is room for new music to attract new listeners in a broad variety of formats.

**bit** For 24/7 Latin news and analysis, see [billboard.biz/latin](http://billboard.biz/latin).

# EN BREVE

## CONFERENCE CALL

Morning radio, crossover acts, 360 deals and the state of Latin-American and U.S. Latin digital markets are among the topics at the 19th annual Billboard Latin Music Conference April 7-10 in Hollywood, Fla. Celebrity panelists confirmed so far include morning personalities Javier Ceriani (Personalities 92.5 WCHQ [Clásica 92.5] Miami) and El Chuto & La Bala of regional Mexican WLEY (La Ley 107.9) Chicago. They will participate in the conference's first "Radio Day" April 7, which will include panels on the

Portable PC, the Meter and bilingual programming. Crossover acts Kat De Luna and the D.E.Y. will speak at the "Urban Crossover" panel,

while Mum! GH, Alex Pineda and MTV's *La Gata* Bailey-Troyer will hold forth in a discussion on U.S. Latino youth. As previously announced, Enrique Iglesias will be this year's star Q&A artist, while reggaeton duo Wisin & Yandel will explain its new business model with management and sponsors. For a full schedule, go to [billboardevents.com](http://billboardevents.com). —LC

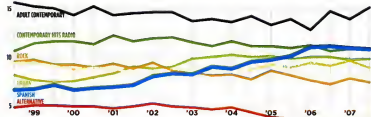
## SPANISH ALLIANCE

The music arm of Spain's biggest media holding, Grupo Prisa, has acquired 70% of the country's most important management and booking agency, Madrid-based Rosa Lagarrigue Management. "In a time of crisis for the music industry, the creation of alliances such as this one underlines the vocation to continue," RLM CEO Rosa Lagarrigue says. In Miami, which also has offices in RLM, managers leading Spanish artists such as Alejandro Sanz and Miguel Bosé. Its operation also includes the brand-focused Merchandising on Stage. HGS will now be 70% owned by Grupo Prisa's music arm (GVM) and 30% owned by RLM. GVM's acquisition broadens the cooperation between the two companies that began in 1999, when GVM was founded. The result was the creation of GVM's Planet Events, which has organized Spain tours by leading Latin artists. —Howell Newmyer

## STEADY GROWTH

Of late, Spanish radio (in blue) has gained in audience share while other formats have zig-zagged.

SOURCE: Arbitron fall 2007 American Radio Listening Trends study based on average quarter-hour audience share



# Major Player

New Publisher Ready To Battle Established Entities

The largest music publishing acquisition in history is now spawning a top competitor in the independent sector. Imagemusic, formed by Dutch publisher CP Masters (CPM) and pension fund Stichting Pensioenfonds ABP, is the new owner of the Universal Music Publishing Group (UMPG) assets sold under the watchful eyes of the European Commission (EC).

Now holding rights in songs recorded by artists like Justin Timberlake, R. Kelly and Shania Twain—and the funds to make many more deals—Imagemusic is ready to compete head-on with publishers in Europe and the United States.

This is exactly what the EC wanted before it would give its regulatory blessing to Universal's €1.61 billion (\$2.05 billion) acquisition of BMG Music Publishing. That deal closed in 2006, less than two months after a European court browbeat the EC for the way it handled examination of the Sony BMG Music Entertainment merger. With the independent music group Impala ob-

40 writers including Gino Vannelli, Johnny Nash, Kevin Gilliam (DJ Battlecat) and Candy Dulfer. Just prior to BMG's sale, that publisher's U.K. assets (including the Zomba catalog) had generated an average of nearly €103 million (\$124 million) in revenue annually during 2003-05, with BMG retaining an average of more than €31 million (\$37 million) in net publisher's share (NPS) annually, according to confidential documents reviewed by Billboard during the BMG auction process. That NPS contributed an average of nearly 19% to the publisher's total NPS during each of those years. The catalogs sold by Universal are a portion of these assets.

The assets and publishing rights divested by Universal—and acquired by CPM/ABP—generated about €30 million (\$37.2 million) in revenue during 2006, resulting in roughly €10 million (\$12.6 million) in NPS, according to a confidential document reviewed by Billboard last year. The final purchase price was in the €125 million (\$189 million) range. Imagemusic is already working on a second undisclosed acquisition and is ready to sign



**"The commission wanted to make sure we were serious about signing new writers."**

—ANDRÉ DE RAAFF, CP MASTERS



jecting to the new acquisition, Universal chose to work closely with the EC and divest itself of assets rather than spend millions of dollars challenging potential EC objections.

In the last year, the EC closely monitored Universal's selection of assets and subsiding rights—sending questionnaires to about 100 European companies for their opinions on the impact on the market by the proposed divestitures—to ensure that the sell-off would reduce Universal/BMG's market power while enhancing or creating competition in the publishing market.

After CPM/ABP beat out nearly a dozen other bidders and sealed the deal in December, the new buyer still had to satisfy the commissioners that it wasn't simply buying assets to squeeze out some money then sell them off again.

"They wanted to know how our network works, if we really had the intention to not only buy catalogs, but had serious ideas about continuing to work the catalogs and, very importantly, to continue to sign new writers," CPM co-CEO André de Raaff says.

Under the deal, CPM/ABP acquired the Zomba U.K., Rondor U.K., 19 Songs, 19 Music and BBC catalogs, which UMPG will subpublish outside Europe. It also acquired European subpublishing rights to the Zomba U.S. catalog. This adds the works of more than 100 writers to the CPM fold, including Kaiser Chiefs, producer Robert "Mutt" Lange (Shania Twain), Martin "Max Martin" Sandberg (Britney Spears, Backstreet Boys) and Mark Knopfler, as well as future songs by Timberlake, Kelly, Linkin Park, No-No, Nas and others. They join the CPM roster of songs by about

more writers, primarily from the United Kingdom and America, de Raaff says. With writers from these countries, "you automatically have a bigger chance to create worldwide success because of the language and the talent."

In the next six months, de Raaff plans to focus heavily on sync licensing. He believes the catalogs have been underexploited in Europe. And while some U.S. publishers believe that sync fees have dropped even though licensing opportunities have increased, de Raaff says he hasn't seen a pricing drop in Europe.

CPM is one of four divisions of the Netherlands-based CTM, an entertainment company co-owned by de Raaff, Bob Hubar and Denis Wigman. De Raaff, who was once GM of Warner/Chappell Music's Dutch office, has more than 30 years' experience in the music industry. Hubar is an established TV producer and former entertainment attorney.

Slightly more than a year ago, they decided to focus more on music publishing and TV production. That led to the quest for financial backers. ABP is Europe's largest, and the world's third-largest, pension fund with €217 billion (\$128 million) in assets under management. Last summer, de Raaff met ABP executives, who were then already considering investing in intellectual property. They joined forces just as the Universal assets went up for sale.

Imagemusic is opening a London office with four executives from Universal/Zomba, and adding four more to the staff. Administration will be handled out of its office in Hilversum, the Netherlands. ....

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## The Indies

CORTNEY HARDING [courtney.harding@billboard.com](mailto:courtney.harding@billboard.com)



On one hand, the results of a recently released New York University Stern School of Business study "Does Chatter Matter? The Impact of User-Generated Content on Music Sales," by **Vasant Dhar** and **Elaine Chao** on how different outside elements affected or predicted sales once an album was released don't seem terribly shocking.

Of course, a record with some sort of publicity will sell more than one without any advance hype; if a record is put out in the woods and no one hears it, it probably won't make much of a sound.

Likewise, the authors' findings that blog buzz and social networks can lead to sales increases, sometimes up to three times the average of similar releases, isn't too surprising. But what bears examining, in the wake of this correlation, is how indie retailers can maximize this trend and build relationships with blogs to drive sales.

Online retailers have been some of the first to jump on this opportunity. InSound.com, which was recently acquired by the Alternative Distribution Alliance, has an extensive online affiliate program. "We have people on staff dedicated to reaching out to music blogs," site director **Patrick McNamara** says. InSound has had a partnership with Pitchfork for almost nine

years, and also has relationships with major blogs like Brooklyn Vegan, Stereogum and Oh My Rockness. Those sites get a small percentage of each sale that comes through a direct link, and InSound uses the program to boost sales and manage inventory.

"A good review on Pitchfork or some blog chatter can definitely drive sales," McNamara says. "When **Clap Your Hands Say Yeah** got Pitchfork's 'best new music' distinction, we sold 12,000 copies of the record."

Also benefiting from a strong relationship with Pitchfork is digital indie music retailer eMusic. According to editorial director **Yancy Strickler**, the site saw a 600% increase in downloads of the new **Atlas Sound** album after a recent Pitchfork review. eMusic also has a partnership with **Boing Boing**, which resulted in a 500% increase for the **Marselle Flips** after the site ran a positive review of their latest record, "The Dirty Canon."

From the perspective of the bloggers, money is only part of the equation when it comes to choosing the sites to which traffic is directed. "Ultimately it's all about picking the most useful commerce services for our audience, so we have the Amazon MP3, Amie St. and eMusic stores that provide [digital rights management]-free MP3 files; Apple iTunes, which provides a mix; and Pricegrabber, which helps our

users find the best prices on CDs if that's what they are looking for," says **Anthony Volodkin**, founder/CEO of aggregator the Hype Machine.

**Matthew Perpetua**, who writes **Fluxblog**, tends to steer his readers toward indie outlets. "I try to favor band sites/label sites, throw things toward indie online shops fairly often," he says.

While digital-only stores have embraced this model, brick-and-mortar stores—even those that sell music through their Web sites—have been slower. "We don't have any deals with the local blogs," says **Isaac Stusarenko** of Portland, Ore.'s **Jackpot Records**. Nor does Phoenix's **Stinkweeds Records**; owner **Kimber Lanning** says that while some local blogs do link to its store, there is no formal program in place. Even larger indie chains like Boston's **Newbury Comics** have been slow to jump on the blog bandwagon. "Developing an affiliate program for blogs is on the list, but it's pretty far down on the list," **GM Duncan Browne** says. He also acknowledges that the store "sees a definite uptick in sales of a certain record when bloggers pay a lot of attention or a site gives it a good review." ■■■

For 24/7 Indies news and analysis, see [billboard.biz/indies](http://billboard.biz/indies).

# Sales 2.0

Is Indie Retail Learning From Blog Buzz?

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HIP-HOP BY HARIEL CONCEPCION

## PUMP IT UP

Labels Look To Boost Digital Hip-Hop Album Sales

When Flo Rida set a digital sales record last month with his single "Low," which moved 470,000 copies the first week of January despite not being available on an album, it was emblematic of an intriguing trend.

Digital hip-hop track sales are at an all-time high, but in terms of digital album commerce, hip-hop is lagging far behind other genres. In 2007, of 500.4 million albums sold industry-wide, 10% were sold digitally. In comparison, of the 41.7 million rap albums sold, only 7% (2.9 million) of those were digital.

So far this year (through the week ending Feb. 17), according to Nielsen SoundScan, overall album sales stood at \$6.4 million, with 15.4% of that figure being digital (9.6 million). Of the 4 million rap albums sold, 11.2%

have been digital (447,000).

Two indie labels are seeking a solution. Amalgam Digital, which claims it is the first hip-hop-specific online retail store, and Def Jux, which is finalizing plans to expand its label site to a full-blown digital store, are experimenting with new ways to boost the genre's download sales stats.

Amalgam GM Jay Andreozzi believes the label not only creates a platform for indie hip-hop artists who otherwise might find it difficult to get music featured on iTunes or Rhapsody, but that it will also aid in shifting hip-hop's digital figures.

The label is committed, Andreozzi says, to "new strategies like additional bonus tracks or a cappella versions of the album or exclusive digital-only albums." An example of the latter is Joe Bur-

den's "Mood Muzik 3.5." The digital-only album was made available earlier this year exclusively on Amalgam's Web site prior to the release of "Padded Room," the New Jersey rapper's official sophomore release, due this spring via the label. In addition, a limited-edition e-cappella version of "Padded Room" will be made available free to fans who buy the album from the Amalgam site.

Koch VP of digital/mobile Bill Crowley says that although specialty stores have been successful in the past, he isn't certain a hip-hop-specific store will do as well. "There's a really healthy hip-hop market on the digital side, but they aren't the most likely to buy full-length albums," he says.

Why? Because hip-hop culture has historically been

Amalgam Digital is hoping music from JOE BURDEN will drive traffic to its online store.



singles-driven. "While a lot of hip-hop fans can tell you their top 10 hip-hop albums, there are plenty that love the genre but aren't embedded in the culture that can't," says Jason King, artistic director at New York University's Clive Davis Department of Recorded Music. "Hip-hop has never really been a concept-album-driven culture."

Still, Def Jux plans on adopting the same free/bonus content policy Amalgam has implemented when it expands its online store when it comes months. Currently, the site only sells music by Def Jux artists.

"You can put all the B-sides and exclusive digital content on there to further draw people in," label manager Jesse

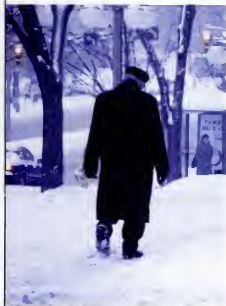
Ferguson says. "You can add CDs, sneakers, sweatshirts, plus an entire catalog digitally, and not worry about it being in stock or not."

Andreozzi believes that signing former major-label artists like Budden (whose 2003 self-titled Def Jux debut has sold \$26,000 copies) to indie labels will further facilitate growth in on-line album sales.

"We had the highest-selling individual album on Amalgam with Joe and now, when we do his next album, we will hopefully be able to do it on a bigger scale," Andreozzi says.

Crowley says, "There's a lot of success to be had when a high-profile artist finds their way to an indie," but he still believes singles sales will remain on top. "It all comes down to delivering tracks people want," he says. "Still, if they buy an album or now, it beats the alternative of people not caring at all, or caring so little they'd opt to download illegally." ---

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FACT #1:  
WINNIPEG IS  
COLD

| Date         | Event                          | Attendance | Box Sales   | Temperature                     |
|--------------|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Nov 28-Dec 2 | Walking with the Dinosaurs     | 54,825     | \$2,398,717 | Brisk at 23°C                   |
| Dec 5        | Don Jax                        | 15,875     | \$1,483,084 | Slight chill in the air at 26°C |
| Jan 10       | Michael Biebe                  | 10,104     | \$501,397   | Breeze cooled at 31°C           |
| Jan 21       | Big & Rich                     | 6,440      | \$141,289   | Fingers numb, 29°C              |
| Jan 26       | Blue Rodeo                     | 4,503      | \$189,152   | Unseasonably warm at 19°C       |
| Jan 27       | 3 Days Grace                   | 2,033      | \$232,660   | Absolutely 17°C                 |
| Feb 6-9      | Maroon 5                       | 24,000     | \$294,056   | Overcast 27°C                   |
| Feb 11       | John Mellencamp                | 11,350     | \$168,271   | Aidy cold at 31°C               |
| Feb 27-28*   | High School Musical            | 21,000     | \$250,000   | 24°C and biding                 |
| Mar 8-10*    | CDN Championship Curling Brawl | 200,000    | \$2,700,000 | Really, well it matters?        |
| Mar 16*      | Ariell Jaeger                  | 9,000      | \$400,000   | Unlucky still belch             |
| Mar 21*      | Martina McBride                | 2,000      | \$400,000   | Expecting the worst             |
| Mar 25*      | Jonny Lightburn                | 10,000     | \$200,000   | No hope in sight                |
| Mar 28*      | Recess Party                   | \$2,000    | \$250,000   | Coldest ever experience         |

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FACT #2:  
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IS HOT

CHRISTIAN BY DEBORAH EVANS PRICE

## Larry Norman 1947-2008

### Christian Rock Pioneer Influenced A Range Of Acts

One of Christian rock music's most influential and controversial figures, Larry Norman died Feb. 24 of heart failure at his home in Salem, Ore. He was 60.

Inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2001, Norman is often referred to as "the father of Christian rock music." He is known for such groundbreaking anthems as "Why Should the Devil Have All the Good Music" and "I Wish We'd All Been Ready."

"Larry was an interesting person in every sense of the word," GCM Music Assn. president/CEO John Styll says. "He was one of the first to record what later became known as contemporary Christian music, but what he did in the early '70s was far edgier than most of what comes from that genre now. I found Larry to be likable and personable, although unpredictable. I always suspected that he wrote much of his own publicity and spun it so as to further his own mystique, and he did have a way of rewriting history. But he earned his place, and history will always show that he was an original—an iconoclast."

Born April 8, 1947, in Corpus Christi, Texas, Norman began writing and performing at age 9. He later moved to San Jose, Calif., where he became part of the local music scene, opening for the Doors and Jimi Hendrix.

Norman began recording in the mid-'60s and first garnered attention with 1968 release "I Love You," which he recorded while lead singer for the group People! The title track was a cover of the Zombies tune, which reached No. 7 on Billboard's pop singles chart.

Norman left the group as soon as his album was released and embarked on a colorful solo career. Capitol Records issued his first solo album, "Upon This Rock," in 1969, widely considered the first Christian rock album. In 1972, with help from Beatles producer George Martin, he recorded the landmark "Only Visiting This Planet" for MGM Records. The following year, he released "So Long Ago the Garden," also on MGM, before opting to pursue the indie label route the remainder of his career, launching his own Solid Rock Records.

Norman pushed the boundaries by creating rock music that incorporated his faith and targeted nonbelievers. Never one to preach to the choir, Norman's brazen passion sometimes irked religious conservatives, but no amount of criticism could deter him. With his long hair, faded jeans and outspoken political and social views, he was the original Christian rock rebel.

Many Christian bookstores banned his product, but his fellow musicians always held him in high esteem. "I remember the exact moment when I first heard Larry's music," says EMI Christian Music Publishing president Eddie DeGarmo, formerly of pioneering Christian rock outfit DeGarmo & Key. "It was June 1972. I was 17. We were just kids in a rock band on a mission to our generation playing wherever we could. None of us were aware that anyone else was doing this probably due to us being sheltered in the Bible Belt. 'Only Visiting This Planet' truly changed the way we looked at things and what was possible. There was somebody that had blazed the trail for us."

Norman's music has influenced a variety of artists, from mainstream rockers to today's



Above: LARRY NORMAN, bottom right circa 1967. Inset: San Jose, Calif.-based pop-rock group People! Inset: Norman performs at a band reunion at the Santa Clara Fairgrounds in 2007.

young Christian bands. "Larry Norman is without a doubt my greatest lyrical influence," ForeFront artist TobyMac says. "He was socially relevant, spiritually significant and passionate about challenging his generation to new heights of love. Larry put Jesus on the streets—right where he belongs." More than 300 acts have recorded Norman's songs, among them Sammy Davis Jr., Petula Clark, Rebecca St. James and Geoff Moore & the Distance. In 1995, St. James, d'Talk, Gram-martin and Audio Adrenaline were among the Christian acts participating in the tribute album "One Way: Songs of Larry Norman."

At the time of his death, Norman had been working on a new project with Modest Mouse's Isaac Brock and Petrus frontman Frank Black, who cites Norman as a major influence. That music will be released later this year.

Just hours before he died, Norman dictated a message to be posted on his Web site. It said, in part, "I feel like a prize in a box of Cracker Jacks with God's hand reaching down to pick me up. I have been under medical care for months. My wounds are getting bigger. I have trouble breathing. I am ready to fly home."....



## Legal Matters

SUSAN BUTLER sbutler@billboard.com

## The Legends Lawsuit

### Record Club Sales At Center Of Artists' Royalty Claim

The record industry doesn't make cookie-cutter record deals. This can lead to significant accounting problems—especially after artists sign with different labels over time, each with its own negotiated contractual terms covering royalty percentages and calculation methods. Add to the mix a major-label group acquiring several other labels, and one result can be a lawsuit, such as the one recently filed by 14 artists or their estates against Universal Music Group.

The plaintiffs include such legendary figures as Patti Page and the estates (or trusts) of Count Basie, Sarah Vaughan, Woody Herman and Benny Goodman. The one thing they have in common is that they all signed with labels eventually acquired by UMG, they all hired H/B Webman & Co. to audit their royalty accounts, and they aren't satisfied with UMG's accounting and payments.

It would be easy to say that this case is about a lack of transparency in accounting. But it's more complex than that. Nearly every possible legal and accounting allegation is thrown into this mishmash of a suit filed Feb. 14 in the New York Supreme Court.

The 53-page complaint cites improper payments in connection with record clubs,

returns, compilations, third-party licenses, digital distributions, reserves, legal settlements, foreign royalties and Audio Home Recording Act royalties from 1998 to the present. The complaint alleges that the parties agreed to toll (extend) the statute of limitations during this period of time.

Specifically, the plaintiffs claim that UMG received "inflated advances" and other fees from record clubs and accepted very low royalties—on which artists' royalties, in turn, were calculated.

Oren Wershovsky, a partner with Troutman Sanders in New York, represents the plaintiffs. He believes that the artists should receive a share of the record club fees, since the labels provide free goods—which do not generate royalties—to record club subscribers.

In addition, he says, the contracts required royalties to be calculated based on retail list price. But, he says, UMG no longer publishes retail list prices in its catalogs. Instead, he says, the label uses a "synthetic" retail price, which is based on the published price to dealers (PPD). He argues that this is improper because UMG never asked the artists whether the change was acceptable to them.

Despite numerous requests, he adds, UMG refused to tell auditors how it comes up with this price. The auditor determined that the company's methodology resulted in it crediting, at the retail list price, roughly 120%-130% of the PPD; the actual retail list price,



GLOBAL BY HOWELL LLEWELLYN

## RAUCOUS CAUCUS

### Spain's Indie Labels Team Up To Prep For Government Talks

MADRID—The Spanish indie label sector she'd up a nationwide Independent Labels' Federation (FIP) to hold more sway in upcoming consultations with the government over music legislation.

To create FIP, the 48-member indie labels body UFI has joined with regional groups in Catalonia (Barcelona), the Basque Country (Bilbao), Valencia and Galicia (Vigo).

The new group will be independent of Spain's two main music sector pillars—major labels' body and IFPI affiliate Promusicae, and 80,000-member authors' and publishers' society SGAE. FIP will represent some 200 labels that account for 20% of record sales in Spain.

One FIP demand will be for such anti-peer-

to-peer piracy legislation as that proposed in France and the United Kingdom. Former UFI committee member Fernando Luaces, who is now a Promusicae board member and director of Madrid label Bos Records, says, "We want similar laws on the control of internet content owned by artists and labels—the question of rights [on the] Internet is crucial to the indie label sector."

Luaces adds that "FIP will be a unique voice in the negotiation of these rights, and we shall be prominent in the three lines of negotiations—with mobile phone operators such as Telefonica, global Internet sites like MySpace and YouTube, and rights collecting societies





he says, was 152% of the PPD.

The auditors also found that although many contracts did not allow for certain deductions such as packaging, Warshavsky says, it appears that UMG built a standard deduction into the PPD (e.g., the PPD would be 25% below the published PPD).

Among other claims, the complaint alleges that UMG debited the plaintiffs' accounts with a higher per-unit price when records were returned than it previously credited to them when the same units were sold. UMG also deducted a reserve against royalties for certain third-party exploitations despite no contractual provision allowing for the deduction, the complaint claims.

Warshavsky says he also plans to claim that digital download deals are licenses rather than sales, requiring higher royalties to artists.

is no such duty between artists and labels.

The plaintiffs also want the court to rescind the contracts and return the masters to them. But a rescission requires that all the parties be returned to their original pre-contract positions. The plaintiffs could have to pay to UMG all money ever spent by the labels for these artists since, in some cases, the 1930s.

Time will tell whether the plaintiffs are entitled to the total \$6.1 million they claim in damages or whether they are expecting more than they contractually agreed to accept.

"We believe that these claims are baseless, and we are confident that we will prevail in court," a UMG spokesman says.



For 24/7 legal news and analysis, see [billboard.biz/legal](http://billboard.biz/legal).



such as SGAE. We want MySpace and YouTube to pay rights now for using music made in Spain and owned by

Spanish indie labels."

While SGAE welcomed FIP's imminent arrival, Promusicae declined to comment. However, Simone Bosé, director general of Promusicae member EMI Spain, calls FIP "good news as long as all collectors join together to talk about sector problems."

Bosé adds, "The music industry needs unity and strength more than ever to combat the threat of piracy, and to again boost new talent."

Mark Kikatt, VP of UFI and

director of Madrid label Everlasting Records and distributor Popstock, says that another likely FIP demand will be that 40% of all music played on radio stations be "made in Spain," including Spanish indie groups that record in English.

Kikatt adds that this type of legislation is a necessary measure "to give Spanish music more recognition and esteem, to make it easier to get [Spanish] bands out there in Europe, the United States and China."



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**The music industry needs unity and strength more than ever to combat the threat of piracy and to again boost new talent.**

—SIMONE BOSÉ, EMI SPAIN

GLOBAL  
NEWSLINE

## &gt;&gt;&gt; DOWNLOADS UP 41% IN JAPAN

Music downloads in Japan rose by 41% in trade value to 79.5 billion yen (\$699 million) in 2007, with volumes up 26% to 465 million units, according to data released by the Recording Industry Assn. of Japan. PC-based music download sales—including full tracks, albums and music videos—rose 30% to slightly less than 31 million units, for a wholesale value of 5.92 billion yen (\$54.8 million), up 18% from 2006. Downloads in the all-conquering mobile sector accounted for the vast majority of sales, with 434 million units having a wholesale value of 68 billion yen (\$629.6 million). Master ringtones represented the largest part of that with 223.9 million units, down 1% from 2006. The RIAJ counts albums and mini-albums as single units regardless of the number of tracks they contain.

—Fred Varcoe

## &gt;&gt;&gt; WARNER AFRICA GOES MOBILE

Warner Music Gallo Africa has struck a strategic partnership with iO Global, which promises to pump the major's music across African mobile networks. Founded in May 2005 in the United Kingdom, iO is a global provider of integrated digital retail solutions. It will distribute WMGA's repertoire through a network of third-party wireless operators and mobile service providers in Africa. The partnership will encompass digitized music in an array of mobile formats, including full tracks, album bundles and ringtones. The pact will initially focus on sub-Saharan Africa, rolling out first in South Africa and Nigeria in March. WMGA was created in May 2006 as a joint venture between Warner Music International and South African publishing and entertainment company Johncom and its label subsidiary Gallo Music.

—Lars Brande

## &gt;&gt;&gt; 'THREE STRIKES' FOR DOWN UNDER?

The Australian government says it is considering "three strikes and out" legislation that would see frequent illegal file downloaders lose their Internet access. Under the proposal, similar to a plan being considered by the British government, an illegal file sharer will be given a warning. This will be followed by a suspension of Internet access, and then cancellation. The law would require Internet service providers to monitor traffic on their networks. The Australian Recording Industry Assn. claims that 2.8 million Australians downloaded music and movie files illegally in 2007. ARIA has proposed the three-strikes policy as a weapon in battling piracy during discussions in the past 12 months with the government and ISPs. ARIA chief executive Stephen Peacock says, "It's a highly compelling proposal," he says. However, Peacock maintains that ARIA would prefer to formulate a voluntary code of conduct with ISPs than rely on legislation.

—Christie Eliezer

## &gt;&gt;&gt; POSTHUMOUS DMA WINS FOR NATASJA

Urban artist Natasja posthumously won four honors at the 20th annual Danish Music Awards show, held Feb. 23 in Copenhagen. The Playground Music artist, who died in a car accident last June, took awards for best album, female vocalist, urban album and songwriter for "I Danmark Er Jeg Født." Alternative rock act Døne won best band, best new act and best rock album for "We Are In There You Are Out Here." Other winners included Copenhagen Records' Alphabet, whose self-titled disc was named best pop album. Its single "10,000 Nights of Thunder" was named best track. Most of the awards were determined by a music industry/media jury; special juries dealt with the more specialized awards.

—Charles Ferro

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GLOBAL BY STEVE MCCLURE

(NOT SO)  
BIG IN  
JAPAN

Lavigne One Of Few International Artists Making Headway

TOKYO—How low can it go? That's what industry insiders in Japan are asking after a poor year for international repertoire in the world's No. 2 music market.

According to the Recording Industry Assn. of Japan (RIAJ), physical shipments of international repertoire, excluding music video/DVD—for digital figures, see Global Newsline, left—plunged 23% in 2007 in volume to 62.6 million units. Value fell 17% to 76.5 billion yen (\$713.6 million).

Domestic shipments fell only 6% to 204.2 million units in 2007, with wholesale value down 1% to 256.8 billion yen (\$2.4 billion). That gave international repertoire (called "yogaku") a 23% market share in volume and value, com-

pared with 27% and 26%, respectively, in 2006.

Warner Music Asia Pacific president Lachie Rutherford says one key problem is that the Asian media, particularly in Japan, is "focused on domestic acts, and unless there is a specific story or angle, the focus [on overseas acts] is not there."

Rutherford says it's crucial for acts to connect to mainstream Japanese consumers, but "Western acts do not always invest the time, so they will not penetrate here unless they're already superstars."

Tower Records Japan merchandise operation manager Takeshi Imaizumi says a lack of shows overseas icons as Michael Jackson, Prince

or Madonna has added to the problem. "Since the early 1990s," he says, "the Japanese record industry hasn't been able to find such artists. Only Avril Lavigne has had good results in the past few years."

Lavigne's April 2007 set "The Best Damn Thing"

(BMG Japan) was Japan's top yogaku album in 2007, selling more than 1 million units, according to the label.

BMG Japan president Daniel DiCicco says Lavigne shares "the one trait that ties together nearly every recent successful artist story in Japan... an early, long-term



AVRIL LAVIGNE collected an award recently in Tokyo from BMG Japan president DANIEL DiCICCO for 800,000 shipments of her album "The Best Damn Thing." The set has now passed the 1 million-unit mark.

GLOBAL BY ROBERT THOMPSON

## As The World Turns

Music World Parent Company Unveils New Distribution Plan

TORONTO—The parent company of defunct Canadian retail chain Music World plans to re-emerge as a distributor for music to "non-traditional" markets, aiming at stores like Canadian Tire, Toys "R" Us and other mail-based retailers.

"We'll build an assessment of music for its base of demand on demographics, their retail footprint, their location," says Pindoff Entertainment Group president Michael Waitzer, former CEO of Canadian apparel and footwear chain Athletics World. Pindoff also is planning to open 50 temporary retail stores in malls for the fourth-quarter holiday season.

Music World officially closed its doors Jan. 11,

shutting 72 stores across Canada. The company was owned by the Pindoff family until it was sold late last year to a group of investors, and as part of the receiver-

● ● ● ● ●  
"We believe music is our core DNA and always will."

—HUMPHREY KADANER, HMV CANADA

obligations that needed to be negotiated and would have raised costs, Waitzer says, which led to the decision to close the stores and lay off all 648 employees.

Universal Music Canada president Randy Lennox says he feels positive that an arrangement can be worked out with Pindoff that will return some money from the liquidation of product in Music World stores to the company as it moves forward with the new distribution company.

"There is a will on our part to see Pindoff succeed," Lennox says. "We're fully engaged in trying to make it work, and I'm optimistic it will."

HMV Canada president Humphrey Kadaner says the

Waitzer adds that record companies are still owed money from liquidated stock, but wouldn't disclose what percentage of that they can expect to see.

While there are rumblings of discontent for Pindoff's

focus on the market, including multiple and well-timed artist visits."

The singer's Vancouver-based manager Terry McBride subscribes to that thinking, attributing Lavigne's success to "a combination of three promotional trips. [Japanese-language]

versions of the singles 'Girlicious' and 'Hot,' plus huge use of her manga stories over mobile and Internet."

Lavigne was featured as a character in a two-volume manga comic book, "Make 5 Wishes," published in April and July 2007 by Random House-owned Del Rey Manga. They were available online and to mobile users as weekly episodes, with Lavigne's music soundtracking the images.

While mobile is Japan's dominant digital-music sales force, industry sources confirm that mobile-based yōgaku downloads remain relatively low, partly due to international rights-holders' dissatisfaction with content aggregators' revenue splits.

SoundScan Japan does not have the scale of coverage among retailers that Nielsen SoundScan does in the United States, but has logged 684,000 sales of "The Best Damn Thing," with Ne-Yo's "Because of You" (Universal International) the second-placed yōgaku set selling 321,000 units, ahead of Backstreet Boys' "Unbreakable" (BMG Japan) with 300,000.

While neither RIA nor SoundScan break out labels' international repertoire mar-

ket shares, Universal Music Japan claims to be the 2007 market leader with 33%. UMG COO Kaz Koike says yōgaku sales dropped slightly year on year, but declines to provide exact figures. He suggests UMG's share largely held up through a decision to follow its domestic marketing approach of placing heavy emphasis on TV promotion.

Yuji Takahashi, head of international at Tokyo-based label Pony Canyon, adds that local artists' dominance of Japanese TV was long compensated for by radio and music magazines' focus on foreign acts. But he says radio now favors domestic talent, while specialist music magazines' sales have been hit by free magazines published by retailers like Tower and HMV.

However, DiCicco suggests all is not yet lost for yōgaku. "As [more] overseas markets evolve," he says, "Japanese music companies need to proactively and aggressively search further below the radar for international artists that have the melodies, style—and commitment—necessary to break in Japan."

Additional reporting by Tom Ferguson in London.



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chain hopes it can pick up half of Music World's past business, which would add approximately \$35 million to its annual revenue. The chain, which has 118 stores across Canada, plans to move into the former locations of three Music World stores.

"Most [musicians] want an entertainment retail presence," he says, "so they absolutely want us there."

But some indie artists are anxious about the fact that there is now one major player left in Canada's music retail sector. "We're left struggling to deal with [HMV]," says Enrique Solis, co-founder of Toronto-based indie Paper Bag Records, home to releases by such bands as Tokyo Police Club and the Acorn. "It is hard for us to get cut in on a lot of promotions."

Kadane says he can understand the concerns that music companies in Canada



Universal's **RANDY LENNOX** is hopeful the sale of Music World won't mean lost revenue.

have about the state of the retail industry. He says that while HMV, which he estimates controls around 30% of the music retail market, adds new product segments like videogames and MP3 players, it is still primarily focused on music.

"One can understand their frustration because their total business is music, which is often being consumed by people stealing it," he says. "At the same time they see

retail points being lost or being replaced by retailers where music is a tertiary focus. But we believe music is our core DNA and always will. While we are evolving as an entertainment retailer, we believe that brings traffic into our stores and exposes them to music. That gives the music industry a passionate, committed retailer that will remain in business."

Canadian independent Record Production Assn. president Duncan McKie says the retail problems are just a factor of the overall decline in music sales.

"It is surely a big concern, but it is just a symptom of a bigger problem, which is the decline in physical music sales," McKie says. "Canada [caught] this cold early and got it bad."

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# Jordan Schur

It's all about hits for this longtime label president, who is making partnerships a key role in breaking his new roster of artists.



Jordan Schur has one hell of a wall of fame in his Santa Monica, Calif., office. It features posters, framed press clips and memorabilia from Limp Bizkit, Korn, Weezer and the Cure—just some of the acts he worked with in his previous incarnations as president of Geffen Records and owner of Flip Records.

But Schur is most excited about the future. Twenty months after he founded Suretone with an infusion of cash and support from Interscope, the label is about to release a string of albums in the coming months: From First to Last's self-titled album drops April 15 (see story, page 48). Following in rapid succession are releases from Shwayze, Meriwether, the Black Angels, Eastern Conference Champions and the Pink Spiders.

"I feel so strongly about these acts, it's incredible," Schur says. "It's only ironic that at the world's worst time in music, I have the greatest roster I've ever had." Jordan has a history of finding artists, building them from the ground up, finding their audience and breaking them into the mainstream," Interscope Geffen A&M chairman Jimmy Iovine says.

Schur isn't just relying on the traditional radio-and-release strategy to break these bands. He's drumming up business by pursuing partners in TV, videogames and retail. And the Suretone Web site has just relaunched with the goal of becoming a social networking site for fans of his label. "It has to be about creating a community around whatever music you're doing," he says. "Hype is the danger. Hype is the enemy of everything that is real."

## So what does it cost to start a label these days?

I've invested \$6 million of my own money in this business in the last 20 months. No one in the record business as an entrepreneur would say that, because no one would be crazy enough to fucking do it [laughs]. I don't answer to finance meetings. I don't look at quarterly cash flow statements of this company. I don't give a shit.

I did it because I believe in my artists, and I believe in myself, and I believe in the power of music because music has never been more present in the culture of our lives.

Interscope has been great to me. They pay for the records that are produced, they pay for all the marketing, they give me some great overhead in the company. But the investment, overall, if you look at the roster and you look at all the signings and you look at the money I've put in and the money they've put in, including marketing and everything else, you probably come to a number that's \$25 million-\$30 million. Easily.

## And you're about to get another big investment?

The Malool family is making an investment in Suretone to become my partners—ultimately, it's a multi-million-dollar investment. They

want me to look after their music interests. They have a couple of young artists, one of them is Ali Lohan, Lindsay Lohan's sister. We're going to be launching her music career, and we're also doing a TV show with her.

The Maloofs bring great resources. They have a \$20 million recording studio in the Palms and they have an unbelievable venue in the Pearl [in Las Vegas]. We can record our artists and [have them] perform there. With [their background in] the NBA, they bring all sorts of resources for us to license our music. They'll enjoy a minority position in the company because I want to maintain my complete control, but I'm extremely happy to have them onboard.

## What is your state of the union for the music industry?

The music industry has been incredibly fat and lazy, and that's the truth. When you rely upon the musical consumer to repurchase their musical library—from vinyl and cassettes and 8-track tapes all the way through CDs—and you have this massive growth that happened every few years, and you think that's real, you're crazy. It's not real. Once we got to a digital platform where [consumers] could control all of their music within one unit, it ended the built-in engine of the re-

purchasing of the musical library. So then what you're left with really is the business, and people in this business that can find talent and harvest the talent. That's the whole ballgame—it's only about hits.

## Your deals seem like 360 deals, but with significant emphasis on nontraditional sources of income.

We're going out of our way to create alliances and partnerships with anyone and everyone that we feel can help us set the table for when we bring our music to market. If you look at the structure of Suretone, you understand why I believe in that, because I'm not just the record company. I'm the manager. I'm not just the manager and the record company, in many cases, I'm the publisher. You can no longer survive just on the music sales.

I was one of the guys, originally, who never had a problem being the record company and the manager. It was a natural move for me, because I wanted my artists and my destiny to all be one and the same.

I'm not interested in selling a song. I'm interested in selling an artist. I'm not interested in popping a song on the radio and having them go and buy the single. My job is to grasp onto the integrity and the vision that these artists have, and help them evolve their lifestyle-

I don't answer to finance meetings. I don't look at quarterly cash flow statements of this company. I don't give a shit.

driven bands. So that when that base widens, so that when we do ultimately go to radio and television, we don't have our hearts in our throat.

## Who's next on your roster?

For From First to Last, Josh Abraham produced the record. He did 30 Seconds to Mars recently, but he also did Staind for me. "Break the Cycle." He understands big rock sounds. Meriwether, they're from New Orleans and they've played all these shows spread out in a 200- to 300-mile radius in every direction from New Orleans. We're going to drop that record toward the end of the summer, in the fall.

Shwayze has been incutted in the clubs. It's blowing up. That's a direct result of us working for the last year, feeding the clubs, touring, hitting markets three times, four times. We've hit the top 20 markets in America. I get 10-15 grand a show for them, now. And yet, I don't have a song on the radio. I haven't put a video to MTV and there's no album out. Interscope is like, "Holy shit, this fucking thing is on fire!" It's me who is saying, "No, no, no, wait, because we also have an MTV show that doesn't start until June."

## You did TV before with "The

Ashlee Simpson Show." Are you ready for another close-up? The TV show is amazing—it's like "Entourage" in the music business. It's Shwayze and Cisco Adler, his singer/partner who writes music with him and produces all the music. He's a genius and, by the way, the son of Lou Adler. I wanted to capture their lifestyle—and they have a crazy lifestyle.

We did three shows one night at the Super Bowl, and we ended up at 6 in the morning driving back to the house with me, Cisco and Shwayze and 12 girls shoe-horned in a Hummer. And I have to call my wife the next morning to explain, "I didn't do anything. Don't worry about it. There's nothing I can do. I'm the manager and I've got to be with them." \*\*\*

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# CHASING THE DOLLAR

**For The Global Music  
Business, America's  
Weak Currency  
Means Game On—  
For Challenges And  
Opportunities**

**By Ed Christman  
And Lars Brandle**  
Illustration By William Duke

When OT-Vale artist Chenoa flew to the Americas from Spain to begin a Feb. 17-March 15 promotional tour of key Latin-American markets to support her "Absurda Cenicenta" album, Vale Music president Ricard Campoy already knew that the weak American dollar was going to wreak some havoc on the album's P&L statement. ■ "The first costs are paid here [in Barcelona] in euros—that is, the airfares, making the promo videoclip and so on," Campoy says. "Then later when we receive revenue and royalties, it's in dollars. And that is not much when changed into euros." ■ It's a reality that those in and around the music business have been dealing with for years now, at least since the early part of this decade, when the dollar began its long decline. Simply put, if your business collects revenue in dollars, but pays out in a different currency, chances are the past few years have introduced new challenges. But of course, for every party that gets hurt because of the weak American dollar, someone else in the deal could derive a benefit because of exchange rates. Take OT-Vale, for example: Its Universal U.S. and Universal Mexico sister companies of Vale Music—which Universal Music Group acquired last year—benefit from the cheap dollar because the local companies pay the expenses for the promotional tour on the ground, according to Campoy's view. ■ In one way or another the weak American dollar—which on Feb. 26 dropped to 67 cents against the euro, versus 93 cents on that same date five years ago—has affected every aspect of the global music business, from touring, label operations and the importing and exporting of music to where and how investors and music companies make bets through investments.



## INVESTMENTS

Financial executives suggest that foreign investors will see the weak dollar as an opportunity to buy or invest in U.S. assets to achieve bargain-basement pricing, while foreign-based music companies might consider this time as ripe to initiate or expand U.S. operations.

That's what London-based private equity firm Marwyn Investment Management did in February 2007 when it acquired Entertainment One, which owned Koch Entertainment. It then added to its U.S. holdings by buying Navarre's independent music distribution company three months later.

From the opposite perspective, U.S.-based music companies operating on a global stage have an incentive to reinvest their international revenue in those other territories, instead of repatriating those funds home.

"Some of our investments done over the last year were done with other currencies," Warner Music Group CFO Michael Fleisher says. "We were thoughtful about currencies when doing some of those transactions."

Outside the United States, WMG has used non-U.S. dollar currencies to acquire or help start, in the last 12 months, Jean-Claude Camus Productions (January), a tour production, promotion and booking company in France, to help execute its 360-degree strategy; B-Unique (November 2007), a U.K.-based record label; a 70% stake in Taisuke (September 2007), a leading artist services company in Japan; Vita-

min (September 2007), a label in South Korea; the creation of Digital Access (June 2007), a joint venture with Sony BMG and Russian music labels Soyuz and Nikitin Records, to facilitate the wholesale distribution of a wide range of local and international music products to Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States; a significant stake in ZebraLution (February 2007), the Duisburg, Germany-based indie-label digital distribution company; and the Rights Co. (November 2007) in London, which it merged with Warner Vision to form Warner Music Entertainment.

IF YOU GET  
PAID IN  
DOLLARS,  
BUT PAY  
IN EUROS,  
TIMES ARE  
TOUGHER.

## OPERATIONS

"One of the things we like is that half our revenue is derived from outside the U.S.," Fleisher says. In its most recent fiscal year, WMG revenue was split between 49% in the States (\$1.67 billion) and 51% internationally (\$1.73 billion). EMI generated 30.7% of its revenue in the States (£354.3 million, or \$1.09 billion) of its total revenue of £1.8 billion (\$3.5 billion) in its most recent fiscal year ended March 31, 2007. The other two major labels do not publically break out music revenue by territory.

"We have costs that match up against our revenue" in the respective currencies, he adds. "You don't want to have all your costs in the dollar and revenue in other currencies."

Conversely, if you are a foreign company selling your product in dollars, doing most of your business in the U.S. and need to convert back to host company currency? Then you are going to get killed," one Wall Street investor familiar with the music industry says.

That happened to a couple of Canadian labels, Madaçy and St. Clair, earlier this decade, according to a financial industry observer. Both companies derive the bulk of their revenue from the States, but most of their overhead was in Canada, which meant that they had to repatriate most of their revenue to pay bills—a costly process when the U.S. dollar is weak against the Canadian dollar.

Five years ago, those companies had an advantage when the Canadian dollar was worth 65 cents. To look at that in dollars—since that's how Montreal-based Madaçy, which trades publicly on the Toronto stock exchange, measures its revenue—on Feb. 14, 2003, theoretically \$40 million in U.S. sales would have paid nearly \$61 million

Canadian in expenses, according to foreign exchange site oanda.com. Today, that \$40 million U.S. would have only paid for \$40 million in Canadian expenses, a shortfall of \$21 million Canadian.

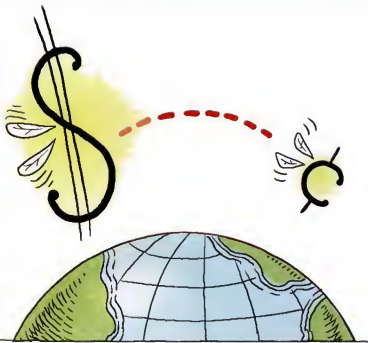
While that may seem like a gloomy prospect for Canadian companies, both of them have taken defensive measures to reduce the sting.

The conversion of the then-weakening American dollar to the Canadian dollar "was an issue for St. Clair that predated my joining the company" in 2005, CEO Ron Ford says. "But the company got more aggressive with hedging currencies and it shifted some manufacturing and distribution pipeline overhead costs to the U.S. to match the revenue stream."

While Madaçy wouldn't respond to repeated inquiries on the topic, it seems to be what the Montreal-based label did too. For one, Madaçy has part of its cost structure—its distribution center—in the States. But even more important, foreign currency hedging through derivative financial instruments—such as foreign currency options and foreign currency future contracts—appears to provide Madaçy with protection against currency swings.

Madaçy does not discuss foreign currency gains or losses in its quarterly numbers—it posted \$451,000 in earnings on net sales of \$73 million in the nine-month period ended Sept. 30, after losing \$23.9 million on \$77.1 million in the previous year—but in its most recent annual report it gave some explanation of its strategy.

In that report, Madaçy noted it had locked in long-term contracts at favorable exchange rates, which produced an annual gain of



\$436,000 in foreign currency translations. To see how it did that, the prior year's annual report shows that on Dec. 31, the company had 31 monthly foreign exchange contracts until July 2008, to convert on average \$1.28 million into \$1.55 million Canadian, which reflects an average exchange rate of \$1.2097 Canadian/\$1 U.S. At that point, the Canadian dollar stood at \$1.16 to \$1 U.S.

At the end of 2006, it reported that its monthly contracts through November 2008 carried an average conversion of \$880,000 to \$1.04 million Canadian, which reflects an exchange rate of \$1.184 Canadian/\$1 U.S.

Foreign currency hedging also becomes necessary in situations where labels or wholesalers are not in control of their own destiny. For instance, if a U.S. distributor pays for foreign product denominated in dollars, then the foreign label has to take that into consideration, says Joe Micalliff, CEO of Portland, Ore.-based Allegro, which serves as the U.S. distributor for many internationally based labels.

Sometimes labels overlook the consequences of exchange rate fluctuations because that is the price they are willing to pay, if the label's long-term strategic play requires an investment in America, Micalliff says.

But sometimes labels call the shots. Filippo Sugar, president of Italian indie Sugar, whose roster includes a massive exporter in tenor Andrea Bocelli, says he took preventive measures before the current dollar slump. "Last year we switched all the foreign contracts of Sugar artists to euros, largely because of the currency's strength, but also because our artists are based in the euro zone," he says.

But then labels always have choices. "I see the weak dollar as being a problem for the Americans, rather than for us," Edel Music Italy president Paolo Franchini says. "For us, the weak dollar can even be an advantage. If

I have to pay an advance, in dollars, to an American artist, then obviously it will now cost me less."

Meanwhile many American companies are now opening offices in Europe, precisely so that they can get paid in euros.

That's what U.S. prog-rock label Magna Carta, located in East Rochester, N.Y., did. During the last two years, it has set up shop in Europe by hiring a network of distributors, two independent reps to act as the label's office there and then opened an international bank account in Europe so it could receive euros and pay expenses in that currency, president Peter Morticelli says.

"Because most of the distributors were paying us in euros, we were getting killed on the exchange rate," he says.

While it looked like a good, cheaper option to manufacture in the States using dollars and then get paid in euros, Magna Carta found that between shipment costs, custom duties and value-added tax, it was better off staying with European manufacturing methods.

"Believe me, we have had some bumps in the road along the way," Morticelli says. "The concept of what I envisioned in my head is finally successful, although I will continue to refine the process... it has to be proven to be money in the bank."



## TOURING

The American dollar's decline seems to be making the biggest music industry waxes in the touring sector.

In fact, whether expenses and payments are paid in dollars or euros is influencing which way tours are going, at least in some situations, according to promoters, agents and bands.

In Australia, where international tours are often negotiated based on the U.S. dollar, it has been a boon to that country's already buoyant live music sector.

"The volume of touring acts has increased markedly," says Michael Jacobsen, Sydney-based managing director of Jacobsen Entertainment. "More acts are available because our buying power is exponentially greater. Overseas bands are at least 25% cheaper."

This year—with the local dollar worth 90 cents to the U.S. version, compared with 70-75 cents two years ago—such major-league acts as the Police, Bon Jovi, Celine Dion, James Blunt and Michael Buble have either already come or confirmed visits.

That's in contrast to 2001, when the Australian dollar was worth 50 cents to the U.S. dollar, and visits by superstar acts dried up.

When it comes to localized expenses, "if you guarantee a show at \$10 million in U.S. at 50 [Australian] cents in the U.S. dollar, that [costs] \$20 million [Australian] for us," Jacobsen says. "If you're doing it at 90 [Australian] cents, that's only \$11 million [Australian]."

Last year, the Australian sector grew between 30% and 40% due to the influx of superstar acts, according to promoter Michael Coppel, whose company Michael Coppel Presents proved the most successful Aussie tour promoter with 2 million ticket sales and a gross of \$200 million Australian (\$180.6 million by today's U.S. value) in that period.

Meanwhile, Australian acts are touring more frequently outside their home country, even though most developing acts lose between \$30,000 and \$40,000 Australian (\$27,100-\$36,200 U.S.) per tour in the name of growing their audience, says Serge Bolzonello, a show accountant and band manager at accounting firm Bank Group, which has Jet, the Sleepy Jackson and Eskimo Joe on its books.

That loss is later offset through advances from their Australian record labels, the bands' own cash reserves from touring domestically and the Australian government's export initiative, which compensates 50% of losses incurred abroad.

"The falling American dollar means that Australian acts can tour additional territories [outside the States] and even have cash reserves when they return to Australia," Bolzonello adds. "The flip side is that the advances they get from U.S. labels is considerably less."

While Australia sees the current weakness of the dollar as a boon, South Africa's music industry has always been at the mercy of a volatile currency. In particular its live music element.

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## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Import and export wholesalers in the United States and around the globe have been known to capitalize on currency weaknesses. When the Canadian dollar was weak against the U.S. dollar, a large influx of Canadian versions of U.S. hit product found its way into the States.

There is also a market for music that may be out of print in one country but in print in others; or sometimes the U.S. major will not issue international repertoire in the States or vice versa. Around the world, there are a slew of importers and exporters capitalizing on these two markets, which are also susceptible to currency fluctuations.

On the one hand the weak American dollar makes U.S.-based exporters look attractive to International Importers, but it hurts import sales from abroad.

Import wholesaler Muscardina, which sold imports in the United States, shut down in March 2007 as part of a restructuring; parent company Sheridan Square CEO Michael Olsen says that one of the reasons for the closure was the difficulty that the weakened dollar presented when it came to making money.

Consider this example, from an importer still in the market: "Ten years ago, we were buying a Felix Hill best-of for \$16 or \$17 Australian, which was an \$8 or \$9 cost to us. Figuring in freight and mechanicals, we would sell it to retailers for \$14 or \$15 and they would sell it to shoppers for \$20 or \$25.

"Today, it's still \$17 Australian, which is now a cost of \$15 U.S., so we would have to sell it for \$24... not too many retailers will pay that much for a single disc. The market can't bear that price so instead of doing \$50 a year like we did back then, now we may be sell five copies."

But as can be expected, foreign companies like Tower Records Japan, where U.S. product comprises 50% of the product the chain imports, "a weak dollar is good for our company, even if the dollar-to-yen rate has been fairly stable," Tower Japan merchandise operation manager Tetsuaki Imazumi says.

The weaker dollar "means we can reduce our payments in dollar terms to U.S. product suppliers," he says, adding that although the euro, pound and the Canadian and Australian dollars are still trading at high rates against the yen, Tower is still able to make a profit on imports from those territories too.

Foreign exporters in Australia and Germany are scrambling to offset the slowing velocity of sales to the States. The U.S. appetite for German product, likewise, is declining due to the weak dollar, says Joachim Harbich, managing director of German import/export company Membran in Hamburg.

In Australia, Melbourne-based Rocket Australian Exports, which once generated 50%-60% of sales from the States, has been looking to increase sales to Asian and Japan markets. Likewise, Melbourne-based ShockExports.com has experienced a 10% drop in recent months on orders for music end entertainment products from U.S. wholesalers and distributors, according to the company's managing director Frank Felvo. But that doesn't necessarily translate into an overall 10% drop in revenue. "You need to remain flexible, positive, and you need to think ahead because this is all cyclical," Felvo says. "You find that lost 10% by selling an equivalent amount of CD and DVDs in another territory."

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from >>>31

Justin Van Wyk, CFO of the country's leading promoter Big Concerts, says the company underwent its most testing time in the early 2000s when there were 13 rands to the U.S. dollar.

In the past five years, however, Big Concerts has been able to recover, thanks to the strengthening rand, which is now 7.6 to the dollar. This has taught the promoter to invest in "forward cover" contracts for the artists and producers it brings to the country, to minimize the risk of fluctuations.

"Take the recent Elton John shows here," Van Wyk says. "We negotiated at a rate of 7.05 [rand] to the dollar but months later when the shows took place in January this year, the rate had risen to 7.80 [rand], which added a significant amount onto the payment due." Thankfully, he adds, the forward contracts were in place to mitigate the increased cost due to the currency fluctuations.

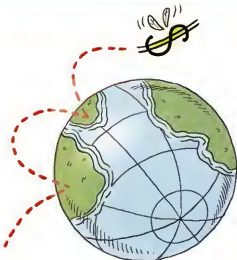
The declining dollar should, realistically, have a positive impact on a country like South Africa, which has always battled against currency fluctuations. However, Van Wyk and Mishia Loots, production head at Oppikoppi Productions—a recent entrant into the live music market (its most recent international act was U.S.-based OK Go)—report that this is unlikely to do so.

Both say that many overseas acts are now switching to negotiating performance fees in euros or pounds, which is what one American artist did during current negotiations. In the past few weeks this artist moved from dollars to pounds in terms of performance fee, Van Wyk says.

"Many of the acts we deal with have agents in the U.K. or Europe who deal with South Africa, so in fact we have been negotiating in euros and pounds even before the dollar decline," Loots adds. "We can foresee that euros and pounds will become the currency of choice for overseas acts headed this way."

In Germany, Peter Schenkow, chairman of Berlin-based promoter DEAG, says it is cheaper for promoters to get the artists because payments are calculated in dollars.

In London, Agency Group Worldwide CEO Neil Warnock suggests British acts are well-placed for a U.S. invasion, thanks to the powerful pound. "It's an unusual bonus," he says. "For our English artists they come over [to the States] and they are getting much more bang for their English pound. We are finding some artists are coming over [to the States] to record. It's cheaper to record [there] than in the U.K."



Warnock notes that being paid in U.S. currency may rankle some artists, but "at the moment, I haven't seen anyone screaming and saying, 'Because of the dollar rates, we are unable to tour.' It hasn't come across our radar as a group."

Yet others say that payment in the weak U.S. dollar could "see fewer U.S. dates by foreign bands," says Bill Zysblat, partner in RZO, a New York-based accountant management firm specializing in the entertainment business. "Their time is better spent elsewhere."

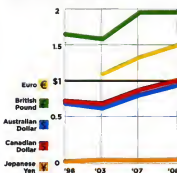
But the William Morris Agency's Kirk Sommer, who handles such U.K.-based acts as the Fratellis, Amy Winehouse, Paolo Nutini, Editors, Duffy and Hard-Fi, believes bands should tour the States for reasons beyond the value of the dollar. While Sommer would not cite specific bands, he did say, "I highly advise international artists to consider using local crews and obviously paying them in local currency. I prefer to look at it as if everything is priced a lot friendlier here. Sterling and euro go a long way." <<<

Additional reporting by Diane Coetzee, Christie Eliezer, Howell Unwin, Steve McClure, Wolfgang Spahr and Mark Worden.

## TOP BILLING

### The U.S. Dollar's Decline Against The Currencies Of Major Music Territories

AS OF FEB. 26, DATA FROM OANDA.COM  
THE EURO WAS RECORDING JAN. 1, 2002





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## Facing The Music As Consumer Spending And Confidence Waver

By Ed Christman  
Illustration By William Duke

Conventional wisdom touts the music industry—a low-ticket form of entertainment—as immune to a recession. “Historically, the music industry has weathered recessions better than most other industries,” says Jerry Gold, a music industry consultant and former Warner Music Group CFO in the ‘80s and mid-’90s. “When times are bad people want to feel good and music does that. . . . The last recession [1990-92] affected us a little, but then music was one of the first industries to come out of it.”

RIAA shipment data shows that recessions do, however, at least coincide with some softness in the music business; it's not always clear if these downturns are as much due to a weak album-release schedule as an economic downturn.

For example, when the coupling of the oil crisis and stagflation led to a 16-month recession that ended after the first quarter of 1975, the music industry experienced a slight downturn, with album shipments falling slightly to 369 million units in 1975 from 389.5 million units in 1974, according to the RIAA. The music industry rebounded from 1976 to 1978 with album shipments reaching 536.2 million in the latter year.

After that, “the two times that the music industry got in trouble was in 1979 and 1982,” former Sony Music format guru Bob Sherwood recalls.

In 1979, another energy crisis, precipitated by the Iranian Revolution, was the backdrop for a decline in album shipments to 470.8 million units.

In 1980, album shipments rebounded to 492 million units, but then there was another recession during 1981 and 1982: album shipments slid backward during those two years to 440.8 million units.

“The industry did retrench, adjust and fixed itself, and then the CD came along,” Sherwood says.

The growth of that format spurred the music industry to new heights during the rest of the ‘80s, culminating in album shipments reaching 740.2 million units in 1990. Then, the U.S. economy just missed lapsing into another recession in 1990-92. And once again, the economic downturn corresponded with album shipments dropping to 696.2 million in 1991 before rebounding again for the remainder of the ‘90s. **continued on >>p36**

# RECESSION ERA?

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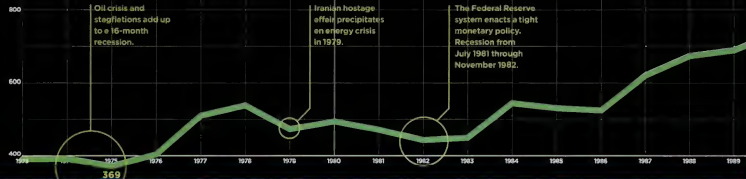


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# A TIGHT SHIP

## RIAA Numbers Correlate With Economic Downturns



The economy has been healthy most of this decade, but that hasn't much helped the music industry.

Caught in one of the most jarring transitions to hit a U.S. business, the digital revolution has weakened the music industry even as it wrestles with a slowing economy.

"With a 15% decline in album sales, we have so many fundamental problems to resolve that a recession can't help," one senior major-label executive says. "But the economies are the least of our worries now."

But those who feel they couldn't possibly worry about anything else may want to take note: The International Council of Shopping Centers and UBS Securities, which compiles weekly retail sales, say that consumers are continuously concerned about the health of the U.S. economy, and as a result remain cautious in their spending.

For January, according to UBS, chain-store sales increased by 0.5%. "With uncertainty about the economy, and the possibility of a recession, consumers have pared their spending," ICSC chief economist/director of research Michael P. Niemira said in a statement.

"Weak retail comparable-store sales make it very clear we are in a recession," distributor Allegro CEO Joe Micallif says. "The higher prices on energy are clearly pinching the consumer."

But, Micallif adds, "it's not the end of the world for the industry." He says that most of the troubled retail and wholesale accounts have "already been flushed out," leaving behind a pretty stable account base. >>>

## MONEY TALKS

### Investors And Financial Executives On What To Expect In Case Of Recession

#### RICH BENGLOFF

American Assn. of Independent Music president

"All of a sudden we may become a lower-cost entertainment alternative to going to the movies. Think about it: For two people to go to the movies nowadays, it could cost \$50 between the movie ticket, soda and popcorn and parking, or they can stay home and listen to a music CD for \$10."

#### INGRID CHUNG

Goldman Sachs VP of media and entertainment/cable and satellite research

"CDs are cheap enough that if there is a pullback in the economy, people aren't going to automatically think they need to cut back on music spending. Movies and music are fairly recession-proof. People look for cheaper ways to amuse themselves."

"On the flip side, some people would think twice about buying certain electronic goods, like delaying the purchase of the iPhone or MP3 players—these items might not be on the same growth trajectory as before. Things like concert tickets or show tickets might also be at risk."

#### JOE BIANCO

Former chairman of Sheridan Square and Alliance Entertainment; principal in music social network site WoosyFly

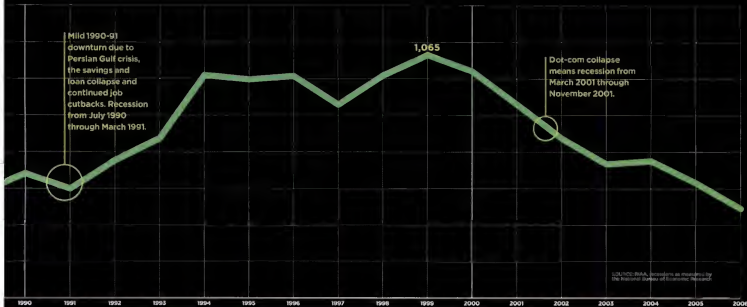
"What happens is a recession slows down the velocity of money. Music used to be recession-proof. That isn't true anymore. It's vulnerable now because what's happening is digital. Whatever benefits digital bestows, it doesn't outweigh the difficulties it has caused because music is now a portable file. There is probably nobody shoplifting surround-sound amplifiers, but if those amps were the size of a quarter, they would get shoplifted more often. Music has become the size of a quarter."

#### MICHAEL FLEISHER

Warner Music Group CFO

"Any recession will impact all consumer spending, so that will have an impact on our business, too. But there is so much other dislocation and transformation going on... unless a recession is really deep, I am not sure it will become a headline in our industry as it would in other industries. With physical [sales] declining so heavily, it would be very hard to parse what impact a recession would have on the music industry."





#### JERRY GOLD

Partner at RP Realty Industry; former WMG CFO; music consultant; Spiral Frog board member

"Today music is very accessible and available. But one thing to consider is how music is now being monetized. In an ad-supported model, maybe a recession results in less advertising."



#### GEOFFREY MADDEN

Partner with boutique financial advisory/investment banking firm Christian Peters & Madden

"Music is a discretionary purchase, and the last few times we went through significant recessions—'90-'92, and before that in 1979 and 1975—the American consumer didn't have other venues and other opportunities for purchases that competed with music. Now, the American consumer, especially the target age group of 14-34, has a multiplicity of choices that they didn't have 25 or 30 years ago."

"So in the past the consumer would cut back on discretionary purchases but still buy music. Now, many more options and alternatives out there are competing with music for the discretionary dollars, so music is more sensitive and vulnerable to less discretionary factors than it was 20 or 30 years ago."



#### DREW LIPSHUR

Partner with venture capital firm Greycroft

"Historically people were concerned that consumers would stop buying music. But now that is almost an irrelevant point with physical music sales down 15%."

"Would a recession accelerate the decline of physical goods? No, not at all. The decline is happening very naturally on its own and will continue to do so until it bottoms."

"When there is a recession, people won't buy a new car, but they won't stop buying a new CD or a \$10 download. Even if you look at a music subscription, I doubt anyone will cut out a \$150-a-year cost because of a recession. When people are depressed, music makes them happy; it's a lifestyle choice, and not a huge amount of money to spend."

"What a recession could do is have an impact that trickles down to the music industry. With advertising models, those spends could slow down. Also, corporate balance sheets tighten up in a recession."



#### ANIL NARANG

Music investor; former co-chairman of Sheridan Square

"People used to buy albums for \$15.99 and now can buy songs for 99 cents, or take them for free or burn them. Music is cheap to the extent that one wants to buy it; they don't need to spend \$15 or \$20. So it's not a high-priced form of entertainment, and much of it can be acquired for little or nothing."

"A recession won't have a huge impact on the music business. The things that impact the music industry more than anything else are other forms of entertainment competing for people's leisure time and money like videogames. That field, the leisure lifestyle kinds of products, is growing so rapidly; if the music isn't good and there are no new bands that interest the consumer, they have plenty of other inexpensive things to turn to."



#### JIM URIE

Universal Music Group Distribution CEO

"Common wisdom holds that an economic downturn doesn't affect the music business. But clearly that is not the case now. Particularly, gas prices are having a significant effect on the music business and certain genres, Latin and country, are really taking it on the chin. Mass merchants track their customer store visits per month, and that has fallen off."





## Retail Track

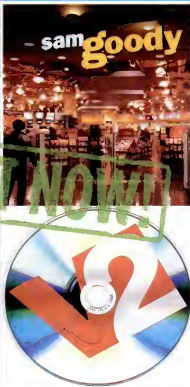
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# PERCEPTION PROBLEM

## Wall Street May Have Given Up On Music Prematurely

Somewhere along the way the mainstream press began consistently reporting that record labels are over, record stores, particularly independent ones, are dying; the CD is dead, music is free or will soon be; and with the Internet all artists will have millions of fans. Amazingly enough, Wall Street seems to have embraced the press' mantra on the music business as well. ■ Consequently, any investment firm seen to be making a bet on the music industry is in for a heaping dose of criticism, if not scorn, by its investors, its peers, the digerati and the press. ■ Many potential music industry investors have gotten that message loud and clear and are staying away. As one music industry executive who has been out seeking funding puts it, "There is a general sense that the minute you mention the music industry to investors, the answer is, 'Go away.'"



In fact, the boards of directors at Trans World Entertainment and at Entertainment Distribution Co. decided it was time to head for the hills, instead of remaining involved in the music business. Both boards put their companies up for sale, sources say.

Meanwhile, sources say that the EDC board decided to put that company up for sale and forgo its goal of becoming the industry's back room for manufacturing and distribution fulfillment, even though it now has the chance to land EMI's business to its relationship with Universal Music Group (UMG).

Given that type of thinking on the part of the boards, why would some institutional-type investments firms and venture capital groups stick around the music industry to get their head handed to them?

Well, believe it or not, although there are not as many investors looking at the space as there used to be, some still see opportunity in the music business, even as it goes through this painful transition.

At Trans World, founder/chairman **Bob Higgins** is attempting to take the company private, a deal he continues to work on. Interestingly, Riley Investment Management, which owns 10% of the outstanding shares, is joining Higgins in that venture. Another investment firm, Sherwood Investments Overseas, also signed a nondisclosure to access the Trans World books so that it could evaluate on whether it wants to follow through on a \$7 per share offer.

Likewise, within the music industry, strategic investors have an appetite for merchandising companies, artist management and any company that can help a major achieve the 360-degree model.

When UMG acquired Sanctuary, a key "get" in that deal was the Bravado merchandising company. Also, sources say that indie labels that have their own merch operations are attractive to major labels, too.

Outside investment in the music industry

isn't "drying up, it's just more difficult to convince investors that your model is the one that will work," says **Jerry Gold**, a music industry consultant who sits on the board of ad-supported download service Spiral Frog and is CFO at RP Realty Partners.

**Drew Lipsher** is a partner with New York venture capital firm Greycroft, one outfit still exploring the music space. Lipsher says the firm looks to make investments in businesses in the music space that have at least a digital component. Lipsher's company is "cautious about valuations, but if Greycroft finds businesses it likes, it hopes to be aggressive in making investments."

Lipsher notes that the investment community is interested in any variations on selling music digitally, particularly those that tie physical and digital together to help make music a well-rounded experience.

Other investors cite such music social networks as incoherent or such applications as iLike as attractive sectors.

In the private equity sector, **Anil Narang**, who previously was co-chairman of Sheridan Square and co-invested with equity firms, says those firms "are still willing to invest in publishing and the music business but not so in the front-line record business. There, some private equity is sitting on the sidelines in some instances, but others are going after deals like the Death Row catalog," which is on the block due to the label's Chapter 11 filing.

Catalog, like publishing, is considered a safer investment, because it doesn't require the capital outlay that playing in the front-line new-release business does. But even if investors decide to bet on the catalog side of the record industry, Narang advises such investors to "make some bearish assumptions. In the past, investors might have lent 60% against the assets of a music company," now he recommends putting up 20%. So deals are getting done, but on a distressed basis.

Still, he notes there are other private equity investors sitting on the sidelines, waiting for digital and physical sales to intersect. But trying "to pinpoint where and when that will happen is like trying to catch a falling knife," he says.

But **Geoffrey Madden**, a partner with New York boutique investment banking firm Christman, Peters & Madden, says there will always be investors interested in the music industry.

"Smart institutional money is smart for a reason and a large part of institutional investing is being contrarian and counterintuitive," Madden says. "There will always be good investing opportunities in the music industry just like there are good investment opportunities in other out-of-favor industries. What the smart money is good at is finding these opportunities." ■■■■



ARCADE FIRE, performing at New York's Central Park in 2005, is one of the most successful new bands to emerge from Canada.

## NORTHERN CHILL

Canadian Music Industry Perseveres In Challenging Times  
BY ROBERT THOMPSON

With CD sales falling faster than digital sales rise and with layoffs at Canada's major labels, many executives in the country's music business are worried about the implications of a continued decline in the music industry. ■ Much of the concern centers on a drop in CD sales of 5.9 million last year. Despite an increase in digital album sales of 4.5 million (counting 10 digital tracks as one album), that still meant an overall decline of 1.4 million albums. Canadian Recording Industry Assn. (CRIA) president Graham Henderson also says revenue declines for the country's major labels outpaced sales drops.

While the Canadian music industry certainly will be upbeat during Canada Music Week activities March 5-8 in Toronto, sales trends are not encouraging. Major-label downsizing could leave Canadian artists facing difficult choices about whom to work with going forward.

Specifically, many are worried that if EMI Music decides to thin operations in Canada as the company cuts 2,000 employees worldwide, other major labels in the country may follow suit.

Atic Records founder/former president Al Mair says there is little doubt the industry will continue to evolve throughout the year. "The majors are going to continue to shrink, with the resultant job losses," he says.

These changes in the majors could also affect Canadian indie labels, Mair says, which may face losing major-label distribution if shifts in policy occur.

But Dale Peters, who runs Dale Speaking, an independent marketing and publicity firm in Toronto, says that while focus is on the sector's difficulties, plenty of opportunities are open to those willing to consider alternatives to the traditions >>

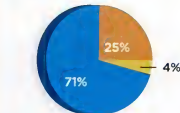


## CANADA FACTS

POPULATION: 33,390,141  
AVERAGE EARNINGS: \$78,400 (TWO OR MORE PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD)  
CAPITAL: OTTAWA (POPULATION: 774,072)  
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, FRENCH  
BROADBAND SUBSCRIPTIONS PER 100 PEOPLE: 23.8

## MUSIC FACTS

SALES AWARDS FOR ALBUMS:  
Platinum: 100,000 units  
Gold: 50,000 units  
PHYSICAL SALES, JAN.-NOV. 2007:  
\$7.9 million units  
PHYSICAL SALES REVENUE, JAN.-NOV.:  
\$382.4 million Canadian (\$375.7 million)  
MARKET SHARES 2006:



- International repertoire
- Domestic repertoire
- Classical, and other repertoire

TOP THREE BEST-SELLING DOMESTIC ALBUMS OF 2007  
1 "Call Me Irresponsible," Michael Bublé (Reprise)  
2 "Taking Chances," Celine Dion (Sony)  
3 "The Best Damn Thing," Avril Lavigne (Sony)

TOP THREE BEST-SELLING INTERNATIONAL ALBUMS OF 2007  
1 "Noel," Josh Groban (Reprise)  
2 "Lost Highway," Bon Jovi (Universal)  
3 "Good Girl Gone Bad," Rihanna (Universal)

## MEDIA FACTS:

KEY NATIONWIDE RADIO STATIONS  
Hot AC CHUM-FM Toronto  
Listenership: 1.2 million

## RETAIL FACTS:

KEY BRICK-AND-MORTAR RETAILERS  
HMV Canada, Wal-Mart, Best Buy Canada, Future Shop  
KEY LEGITIMATE ONLINE RETAILERS  
HMV.ca, Amazon.ca, Chapters.ca, archambaultzick.ca

SOURCES: Canadian Recording Industry Assn., Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Canadian Venues, Venuesmanagement.com, ARIA

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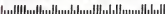
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EXPERIENCE THE BUZZ: CANADA

YOUR FAVORITE ENEMIES,  
above, and CUFF THE DUKE,  
right, are poised for success.

of the music business.

Peters points to an act he works with, Your Favourite Enemies. The act from Montreal has sold more than 40,000 copies of its latest EP by utilizing the Internet and having direct contact with fans.

"I love the fact there are acts out there that want to promote themselves and build their talent over time," Peters says. "Things are changing, but those that are changing with them have plenty of opportunities."

Peters adds that an increasing number of artists are actively taking roles in the business of their careers and are seeking alternative methods of gaining attention.

"A lot of the acts I work with are treating this like a business, which is what they should be doing because that's exactly what it is," he says. "They are saying, 'I want to be an artist, but I want to have control over my career.' And that is exciting to see."

Although a band like Arcade Fire proves Canada's strengths as a source of international talent, rising acts like Basia Bulat, Tokyo Police Club, State of Shock, Your Favourite Enemies and Cuff the Duke wait in the wings. As the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) ponders enforcing an "emerging artist" provision as part of radio licensing, Canadian acts are finding difficulty being heard, says Jill Snell, president of Angelina Entertainment, a Toronto-based label imprint and marketing organization. Snell says it is often a case that an act is only deemed worth noticing if it has had success abroad.

"Radio won't support a debut Canadian act unless someone else first takes the plunge, in most cases, an international party who is willing to take the risk," she says. "Canadian radio has become about the song, not about the artist, but I guess long gone are the days when radio assumes any responsibility for Canadian artist development."

Canadian Independent Record Production Association president Duncan McKie agrees. "Getting new artists played is still a real concern," McKie says. "We have not yet seen any definition of new



**'There are acts who want to promote themselves and build their talent over time.'**

—DALE PETERS

acts promised by the CRTC."

Additionally, the CRIA and CIRPA remain focused on altering Canada's copyright laws to limit free downloading on peer-to-peer sites. There was an expectation that a new law would emerge late in 2007 that would add clarity to the debate in Canada over file-sharing, but the government delayed the bill, which is now expected in the spring.

McKie says his labels need to be paid for the investment they are putting into developing new Canadian acts and stronger legislation is a necessity.

Canada's music retail industry also raises concerns. In 2007, music retailer Music World, owned by Pindoff Record Sales, went into receivership. The chain had 72 stores, and though a new owner has pledged to keep some of them open, there is increasing concern among many in the music business that too much of the retail market now rests with HMV Canada.

"The placement of music at chain like HMV is increasingly becoming an issue, and we're being overshadowed by things like DVDs," says a major label executive who asked to remain anonymous. "And I think catalog sales are becoming an issue just about everywhere." —



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# NEW FRONTIERS

Canadian Music Week Takes On Challenges Of Changing Industry BY ROBERT THOMPSON

Canadian Music Week (CMW) will focus on new concepts and alternative revenue streams that artists and labels can pursue, event founder/president says Neill Dixon, while speakers like Research in Motion co-CEO Jim Balsillie will discuss the possibilities of the digital marketplace. ■ Built upon a theme of "the rebirth of music," Dixon says the focus of this year's event will be forward-looking. ■ "The focus is squarely on the future and not about trying to save the past," he says. "With CD sales still sliding, the industry is looking for new ideas and alternate revenue sources to make up the shortfall."

CMW activities will take place March 5-8 in Toronto. "The event, for which Rogers Music Store is the title sponsor, includes a trade show, industry convention, a music festival featuring some 500 acts and the Canadian Music Industry Awards.

Honorees this year will include Network Music Group co-founder Terry McBride, Insight Production president/Juno Awards producer John Brunton and singer Alanis Morissette.

For CMW, staying ahead of changes in the industry is key, Dixon says, noting the conference will offer a one-day "Millennials" event aimed at providing the music industry with a

better understanding of the "millennial demographic," the group born between 1978 and 2000. The event will present the industry with options on how this demographic interacts with media and the opportunities presented in marketing to a highly mobile group.

Among the key elements of the conference is the Digital Music Summit, which kicked off three years ago. This year's version includes BlackBerry maker Balsillie, who will be one of the keynote speakers, as well as Universal Music Group eLabs executive VP Rio Carraeff.

Dixon says CMW has been preaching about the potential of the digital marketplace since its first keynote on the sector in 1993. He said



**"The focus is squarely on the future and looking for new ideas."**

—NEILL DIXON

at the time that a speech by former Massachusetts Institute of Technology chairman Nicholas Negroponte that predicted the decline of the CD and an emerging digital marketplace was ignored by many in the Canadian music industry.

"He accurately predicted the end of the CD and its compressed digital replacement, which would change the business forever," Dixon adds. "Unfortunately many major-label and retail executives in the audience missed the message as they scoffed at 'the academic futurist that doesn't know our business.'"

"They're listening now," he says. "But it may be too late for some."

Dixon adds that while there are a lot of individuals preaching gloomy scenarios for the music industry going forward, there is an equally important group of upstarts embracing the opportunities that new and emerging technologies present.

"There's an enthusiastic new generation of Internet- and mobile-savvy DIY indies that are ready use technology to reinvent the business and create a new world order," he says. ■■■

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# NORTHERN ROUTE

Canada's Touring Market Remains Strong From Coast To Coast BY RAY WADDELL

The Canadian touring market is still on fire. ■ "Maybe you need to talk also to some of my colleagues in the other provinces as well, but by current accounts, Canada is still selling tickets and the traffic is still on the road," says Patti-Ann Tarlton, director of bookings at the Air Canada Centre (ACC) in Toronto. ■ Billboard did check with the other provinces, and the news was the same from the other side of the country. "Yes, the Canadian market is still hot," says Shane Bourbonnais, president of touring/business development for Live Nation Canada, based in Vancouver. "Bookings are looking really strong, [with] lots of the big Canadian acts, such as Avril Lavigne and Michael Bublé, out early in 2008, along with many of the big international acts."

Live Nation Canada chairman Riley O'Connor in Toronto adds, "The summer looks like the best mix of genres of acts I have seen in over two years."

Tarlton's bookings at the ACC show that mix. "We are just about to play out four Spice Girls, and Bon Jovi has added their record-setting fifth show" at ACC, she says. "Country music is playing nationally. TV shows gone live are still selling tickets, Ozzy [Osbourne], Bublé, Lenny [Kravitz], Rascal Flatts, Foo Fighters

and we welcome their business."

Still, agents and promoters should use caution when routing tours through Canada. "It's only on fire for acts that do not overlap by coming back six months or a year later," O'Connor says. "Acts that plan strategically to tour Canada with well-thought-out launches in marketing their new product and price-point sensitivity on a market-by-market basis will do solid business."

Tarlton says that while the state of the U.S. economy makes news north of the bor-

Canada's touring industry is spicing up as the **SPICE GIRLS**, forefront, brouhaha their reunion spectacle to Toronto's Air Canada Centre for four big shows.

ers, Iron Maiden, Avril, Celine [Dion], [John] Mellencamp, Matchbox Twenty, Three Days Grace and wrestling are all up and doing numbers in Toronto."

Similar news comes from the Scotiabank Place in Ottawa, where 2008 "is shaping up to be a great year," according to venue VP/executive director Tom Conroy. Already on the datebooks for the first quarter are Mellencamp, Rascal Flatts, Foo Fighters, Martina McBride, Carrie Underwood, Def Leppard and Disney's "High School Musical." "The rest of the year should see the business continue at a similar pace," Conroy says.

The question that remains, as it has for the past few years, is how can the market stay at the same levels? "We all expect the market of Canada—it really is one market to all of us from coast to coast—to sustain," Conroy says. "Live Nation is promoting the majority of shows, but AEG is beginning to make tracks here in Canada,

det, the Canadian touring market is anything but skittish."

"We remain cautiously optimistic about Canada, and the dollar is still hovering around par, which bodes well for the business," Tarlton says. "This summer looks like it will be outdoor-based, yet I am still challenged to find time in our arena schedule to execute a number of capital improvements based on the demands of the live industry."

Right now, success is breeding success in Canadian markets coast to coast.

"There are some really great markets to route through, and thanks to strong sales in all the markets, we are seeing more and more confidence from promoters and agents, who in turn view Canada as an excellent market," Conroy says.



For a look at five hot bands from Canada poised for success, go to [billboard.biz/canada](http://billboard.biz/canada).

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**ONWARD, UPWARD**  
Christian fave Leland makes its move



**INDIE-PENDENCE**  
Label troubles can't sink Alberta Cross



**MEDIA FRENZY**  
From First to Last scores with EA, MTV



**WORLD PARTY**  
Dewchika brings eclectic sound to Anti-



**REGGAE/TON RICHES**  
Angel & Kriz have a quirky new hit

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# MUSIC

'American Idol' judges **RANDY JACKSON** and **PAULA ABDUL** had discussed collaborating for years before moving forward last summer.

"There was an incredible amount of interest [in the single]. I termed it even curiosity, in the very beginning," Concord GM Gene Rumsey says. "I think cynics who were curious all of a sudden heard it and realized, 'Hey, this is a pretty good song.'"

That initial curiosity led to a No. 76 debut on the Pop 100, but "Dance" vanished from the charts after just one week. The corresponding video debuted on fox.com Feb. 20 and enjoyed an airing on "American Idol" the next day, which Rumsey hopes will bring back momentum after the post-Super Bowl lull.

"Usually dance radio is a little more forgiving and respectful of heritage artists," radio consultant Guy Zapoleon says, in explaining top 40's apparent aversion to the single. "But today more than ever, our musical culture is about youthful artists who radio might have laughed at five or six years ago. For somebody like Paula, it's a process of rebuilding her image. She's still seen as a '90s pop artist."

There is no confirmation on the follow-up single, although with the genres touched throughout the album—from the duet of "Idol" alumni Katherine McPhee and Elliott Yamin to Joss Stone and the Clipse's cover of Dionne Warwick's "Walk on By" to John Rich, Anthony Hamilton and Sara Watkins' countrified take of Michael Bublé's "Home"—several markets serve as potential targets.

"I've never really wanted to do a solo record," Jackson says, adding that the melange of styles is a nod to his multicultural hometown of Baton Rouge, La. "But I always said that if I did one, I'd love to do one like those Quincy Jones albums like 'Back on the Block' [and] 'Duke'... They showcased new talent he was trying to break."

And although Concord is relying heavily on Jackson's "Idol" recognition factor, Rumsey says a lot of time and energy was invested to help accurately gauge his target audience and avoid "the shotgun/[marketing] approach of, 'Oh, everyone who watches 'American Idol.'"

Album exclusives will be available at Target and Wal-Mart, which include a making-of from the "Dance" video shoot and exclusive audio content, respectively.

In addition to starting up his new label, Jackson was recently named senior A&R consultant/producer for Concord/Star and is executive-producing MTV series "Randy Jackson Presents: America's Best Dance Crew." As for what's in the pipeline at Dream Merchant, Jackson says he's working on records for newcomers Escó and Selah.

He says the goal of the label is to stay small and cultivate talented singers and songwriters, not necessarily break the next big pop star. "Great writing and great singing—that's great artistry. That's what the label stands for and that's what I call it Dream Merchant—where your dreams come true."

Additional reporting by Jonathan Cohen and Gail Mitchell.

POP BY JILL MENZE

## FOREVER HIS GIRL

### New Abdul Track Introduces All-Star Jackson Album

After dabbling in nearly every area of the music industry, Grammy Award-winning producer/musician and "American Idol" judge Randy Jackson is adding "solo album" to his already impressive résumé, and he's choosing "Idol" colleague Paula Abdul along for the ride.

The Abdul-driven "Dance Like There's No Tomorrow" is the first single from "Randy Jackson's Music Club, Vol. 1," due March 11 via Jackson's new Concord Music Group imprint Dream Merchant 21. The 12-track collection showcases a diverse range of artists, from established vets like Mariah Carey, Travis Tritt and Richie Sambora to such up-and-coming talents as Barbi Esco and Kelli Selah.

For Abdul, whose last new single was 1995's "Crazy Cool," the collaboration with Jackson consummated several years of vague

conversations about working together. But during "Idol" auditions last July in San Diego, "Randy kept saying to me, 'I've got the perfect song for you. It sounds like you, like now, it's like a nod to you and your past, but it's you now,'" Abdul says. "And he played it, and it was after the first two bars, I knew it was a hit. I knew it was a total smash."

The track was produced by Jackson and the Danish duo known as Deekay. Oliver Leibler, who wrote and produced Abdul's "Forever Your Girl" and "(It's Just) The Way That You Love Me," did some additional vocal production. Jackson and Abdul premiered the single Jan. 18 on Ryan Seacrest's KISS-FM radio show in Los Angeles, and it was serviced to top 40 stations Super Bowl weekend (Feb. 2-3) to coincide with Abdul's pregame performance of the song.

CHRISTIAN BY DEBORAH EVANS PRICE

## BUZZ

**>>>SWEET TOOTH** Madonna's new album has been christened "Hard Candy" and will arrive April 29. It is her final studio release for Warner Bros. before she transitions to Live Nation Artists. First single "Four Minutes" will hit the radio in late March. Madonna collaborated with Timbaland, Pharrell Williams and Nate "Danja" Hills on the follow-up to 2006's "Confessions on a Dance Floor." Also appearing is Justin Timberlake, who will induct Madonna into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame March 10 in New York.

**>>>BEAT HAPPENING** A cover of "Michael Jackson's Beat It" is among the many treats to be found on "Fall Out Boy's first live release. Due April 8 via Island, the project will be available as a CD/DVD or DVD only; the Jackson cover is a special version featuring "a special guest guitarist" yet to be named. "\*\*\*\*" was taped June 22, 2007, at Phoenix's Cricket Pavilion. The DVD spotlights all eight Fall Out Boy music videos and a wealth of behind-the-scenes footage.

**>>>DOWN AND DIRTY** Having just wrapped three New York shows with ex-Eric Clapton, Steve Winwood has signed a new deal with Columbia Records. His label debut, "Nine Lives," will arrive April 29. Clapton contributes guitar on first single "Dirty City," which is at iTunes now. Look for Winwood on tour with Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers in the United States this summer.

**>>>WELCOME BACK DONNA** Donna Summer will break a 17-year drought of studio albums with all new material thanks to a new deal with Sony BMG's Burgundy Records. Dubbed "Cravens," the project will arrive May 20. Summer is working with a wide range of collaborators, including Danielle Brisebois, Greg Kertler, J.R. Rotem, Lester Mendez and Evan Bogart. The artist's last album of completely new material was 1991's "Mistaken Identity" (Atlantic).

Reporting by Jonathan Cohen.

## MOVE THE MASSES

Leeland Aims To Turn Critical Acclaim Into Commercial Glory

With the 2006 release of "Sound of Melodies," Texas-based rock band Leeland became the critical darling of the Christian music community. Its debut disc earned the group a Grammy Award nomination for best pop/contemporary gospel album as well as four Dove Award nominations.

In addition, 19-year-old frontman Leeland Mooring's songwriting prowess caught the attention of Christian music titan Michael W. Smith, and the teen co-wrote several tracks for Smith's 2006 Reunion album "Stand."

Now Leeland is having to deliver big with its sophomore release, "Opposite Way," released Feb. 26 via Essential.

"We wrote some on the road and finished most of the songs in the studio when we recorded them," Mooring says. "I think it's a good thing. I'd rather be recording in a fast mode than a slow mode."

It has indeed been a case of life in the fast lane for Mooring, who along with his elder brother Jack, Mike Smith, Jake Holtz and Matt Campbell constitute Leeland. The band has been on the road opening for Casting Crowns on the Altar and the Door tour, and Mooring says interacting with other young Christians while touring helped fuel the new material.

"One of the things we've seen is how our generation wants to be a part of something that is bigger than themselves," Mooring says. "There are so many types of pleasures the world has to offer, but everything in this world ultimately leaves you empty and alone. Nothing in the world will satisfy that kind of spiritual void in your life."

Mooring says the band's goal with the new record was to encourage young people to stand up for their beliefs. "We want to raise up a new generation of worshippers," he says, "who do whatever it takes to make that 'opposite way' a reality in their lives. We really hope this will change a lot of lives."

Mooring began writing songs about his faith at an early age. He signed



his first publishing deal with EMI's Christian publishing arm when he was only 15. By the next year, the band had signed a recording deal with Essential, a label under Sony BMG's Provident Music Group umbrella. Thus far, "Sound of Melodies" has sold 38,000 units in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

First single "Count Me In" is No. 28 this week on Hot Christian Songs. "The single is moving well, and we think we'll have some radio success out of this record that we didn't see out of the first record," Provident Music Group senior VP of sales and marketing Ben Howard says. "They have a lot of big fans among radio programmers, but at the same time because of their uniqueness and the different sound of the music, they had a hard time figuring out how to play Leeland."

Howard says Leeland's exposure on the Casting Crowns tour has been key in getting the word out about the new record. The label has partnered with radio in four markets for a special promotion tying into Mooring's trademark red locks. "We encourage listeners to show up with red hair or with red wigs, and the first 50 people that arrive get a special meet-and-greet with Leeland," Howard says. One fan from among those first 50 also receives two front-row tickets.

The Provident team capitalized on Valentine's Day with a reduced-price, 24-hour pre-sale targeting a very narrow community in its database, Howard says. "We had challenged our team to sell 500 and they presold over 2,000 CDs in 24 hours."



**>>>ASIA'S PHOENIX RISES**

Veteran supergroup Asia's new album, "Phoenix," is aptly titled—because it's the first studio set by the band's original lineup of John Wetton, Steve Howe, Carl Palmer and Geoff Downes in 25 years, and because it follows Wetton's emergency triple-bypass heart surgery last summer. "He had a real scare, but once [the surgery] was over they went straight into the studio to make the record," says Mario De Riso, head of Naples, Italy-based Frontiers Records, which has worldwide rights to the album. The record will be released April 14 through Europe. De Riso says a North American release via EMI Capitol will follow, with

International licensing deals in negotiation. Classic rock specialist Frontiers has previously issued albums by Wetton and Downes, plus acts like Styx, Dokken and Bob Hallford.

Formed in 1981 by former members of Yes; King Crimson; Emerson, Lake & Palmer; and the Buggles, Asia topped the Billboard 200 with its self-titled Golden Gate. Subsequent releases, however, didn't match that success, and several later albums saw Downes as the only original member.

De Riso says the new album "brings back the classic Asia sound, but has elements of the past experiences of all four musicians. [That's] reflected in the live shows, where they play

## GLOBAL PULSE

EDITED BY TOM FERGUSON

songs by their previous bands."

Having toured in Europe, Japan, and North and South America since re-forming in late 2006, the quartet begins a global trek (booked by Talent Consultants International) March 1 in the United Kingdom. U.S. dates begin April 4. Asia's publishing is through Warner/Chappell/Copyright Clearance.

—Steve Adams

**>>>FLOWERS' POWER**

Kathleen Edwards admits her music isn't easy to classify. The critically acclaimed Canadian singer/songwriter's third album, "Asking for Flowers," bows March 4 on Maple Music in Canada and Rounder in the United States, with Zos Isouing it in the U.S. the same week.

The new set, co-produced by Jim Scott (Tom Petty, Whiskeytown), offers a more elaborate take than before on Edwards' distinctive brand of pop, rock and Americana. "I

delivered a record that I think is less commercial," she says. "A lot of people would probably be happy if I wrote a lot of poppy, catchy songs—I'm just not in that head space."

It took a while for Edwards to figure out what shape the record would take. "I really had nothing in the bank when I came off tour in 2006," she says. "Now it's at the other end of it, I realize a lot of my songs come from having observations of those around me, and I hadn't had many because I'd just been on the road." Edwards is booked by the Agency Group (Canada), Creative Artists Agency (United States) and Heltzer Skelter (Europe).—Robert Thompson

**>>>AMEN CORNER**

Warner Music Italy is hailing the success of alternative trio Baustelle as the first fruit of its embrace of the 360-degree model. The act's first Warner album, "La Malavita" (2005), made the FIMI top 20, but fol-

low-up "Amen" debuted at No. 4 after its Feb. 1 release. Warner Italy artistic director Tino Silvestri says "Amen" has shipped 35,000 copies (gold) and hopes to hit 70,000 by June.

"We're particularly pleased," he says, "as Baustelle [is] one of the first examples of our new model of business. Under their contract we're also entitled to a share of touring, merchandising, sponsorship and publishing revenue."

"Amen" is Baustelle's fourth album. Sales have been boosted by hefty airplay for lead single "Charlie fa Sui," but the band's visibility was also enhanced by penning a single last year for another Warner artist, Irene Grandi. The song, "Bruci La Città," was Italy's summer hit of 2007.

Warner doesn't have any concrete international plans for Baustelle, whose publishing is handled by Universal Music Publishing and Warner/Chappell; the work is handled by Live Nation in Milan. —Mark Worden



ALBERTA CROSS

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## >>>ALBERTA CROSS

Contact: Rene Symonds, manager, [rs@machinemanagement.co.uk](mailto:rs@machinemanagement.co.uk), +44 0 207 247 4227

Last year, British roots-rock outfit Alberta Cross released a seven-song EP, "The Thief and the Heartbreaker," via Geffen in the United States and Fiction in the United Kingdom to much critical success. However, among reorganizational turmoil at Universal and shifting A&R priorities, the band cut strings with the major after losing the option for a full-length during its contractual period. Which isn't a bad thing, according to Alberta Cross principal Terry Wolfers.

"Everything's wide open now," says Wolfers, who co-writes the dusty and soulful tunes with singer Petter Ericson Staake. "We've really started to build something [in the States]." Alberta Cross shared the stage with former members of Shudder to Think and OK Go at the Barack Rock concert/rally in February in New York and overtook the city's Living Room for a few dates, in addition to rocking the CMJ Music Marathon last fall.

The response, he says, has been good enough that the band plans to move to New York permanently this spring and is mulling a "darker" full-length with potential producers like Alan Beza (Regina Spektor) and Victor Van Vugt (Nick Cave, PJ Harvey).

"At an early stage we realized there was a huge opportunity for the band in America," co-manager Rene Symonds says. He and his partner Iain Watt at Machine Management also handle artists like Mika and post-Punk project Light-Speed Champion. "We almost immediately appointed Sam Kirby, Marc Geiger and Seth Seigle at the William Morris Agency to help us on the U.S. strategy." The booking giant has secured a slot for Alberta Cross at the Roxy Festival March 29 in California and at the new All Points West fest in early August in New Jersey. —Katie Hasty

## >>>KIM KLINE

Contact: Kim Kline, 310-403-8976, [info@kimkline.com](mailto:info@kimkline.com). To hear Kim Kline talk on the phone is a distant cry from what you would expect from her music. Raised in an "itty bitty"

Texas town, the 27-year-old pop/rock artist speaks in a bubbly drawl, an upbeat opposite of her often shadowy and rough-edged song persona.

"I can be the nicest person in the world, but I just write really dark," she happily says. Much material from her self-titled 2007 debut was culled from a difficult era in her life. In 2004-2005, when her mother suffered a brain aneurysm and a heart attack, and her grandmother and grandfather passed away. The album has sold 8,000 copies in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

It was also during this time Kline was settling into her new life in Los Angeles, where she now runs the "Kim Kline music brand." The term is apt, considering her sponsorships from Sinful Affliction Clothing, Hudson Jeans and a forthcoming jewelry line via Mr. Luxury, all alliances she used cement while working in the fashion industry as a sales rep in California. She's also the face of USB wristband promotion company Aderra (Billboard, Feb. 23); the company is using her image and music as part of their presentation to new clients and fans.

Some radio stations, particularly those in tertiary markets (think: KSPI Stillwater, Okla.; WCMT Troy, Tenn.; and WFDL Fond du Lac, Wis.) have taken kindly to Kline's single "inside." "To look at me, you'd think I'm just a pure top 40 artist," the photogenic biter says. "But then you hear the guitars. I think we're at a good place in time for women's rock. The marketplace needs to hear a woman's voice." —KH

## >>>PRINCESS ADANA

Contact: Debbie Fontaine, [fontainetaalent@aol.com](mailto:fontainetaalent@aol.com)

Princess Adana has already made a name for herself in her native Trinidad and Tobago, but now she's attempting stateside success. Her arresting blend of reggae-infused R&B and natural dance moves won her the talent showcase at Billboard's eighth annual R&B/Hip-Hop Confer-

ence last November.

Adana, who turns 20 in April, is no stranger to winning competitions. She dominated her first at age 15, a local talent contest while attending the Tobago Academy of Performing Arts on a dancing scholarship. Deciding to focus on music, she met manager Andre Thorne of BWV Entertainment (Brothers

With a Vision). Since then, she's become a staple on radio and in dance clubs in the region, thanks to soca hits "Out of Control" and "Uncertain." Adana, who is a contracted performer at six major hotels in the islands, came to the attention of Beverly Hills, Calif.-based Fontaine Music Agency (which repped Bad Boy group Dream) after performing at an international talent competition in August 2006.

"Adana has a sultry alto a la Lauryn Hill," Debbie Fontaine says. "She doesn't have the typical soprano that everyone else seems to be doing."

Influenced by Anita Baker and Eddie Levert, among others, Adana (last name Roberts) has since opened the 2007 Tobago Jazz Festival, which featured Elton John, Mary J. Blige and Al Green. Having already released one indie album, Adana and Thorne are hard at work on another set melding her love of soca, reggae and R&B/soul. "I'm a singer from the heart," Adana says. "I just want to sing, dance and be what I am on the big stage."

—Gail Mitchell



PRINCESS ADANA

ROCK BY ANN DONAHUE

# Rock The Cash Box

From First To Last Strikes Up The Band

By the online numbers, From First to Last has scored some impressive digits. Its MySpace page has snagged 12 million profile views, and from there, fans have tallied 20 million plays of its songs.

Building up these numbers, however, hasn't necessarily meant playing by the book. Now under the management of Suretone's Jordan Schur (see Q&A, page 26), the rock quartet has made a number of partnerships outside of the music arena to boost awareness of its self-titled album, due April 15. (FFLT's prior albums, 2006's "Heroine" and 2004's "Dear Diary, My Teen Angst Has a Body Count," were released on Epitaph and have sold a combined 304,000 units in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan.) Schur says those records were "independent

releases that have never gone to radio. We've taken the time to develop them on the road, through new media, through lifestyle marketing efforts... they're my baby."

Among the partnerships:

■ **Electronic Arts.** As part of a publishing deal with EA's label Artwerk, FFLT tracks will appear in the next 11 videogames from EA, Schur says, including best sellers "Madden NFL 09," "FIFA 09" and the next edition of "Need for Speed." "The perfect storm collided in Jordan's office late last year," EA worldwide executive of music Steve Schur says. "He started playing me From First to Last and I almost fell out of my chair. It was the best rock record I had heard in... I don't know how long. They are a picture-perfect game band." In addition, FFLT will get promotion on ea.com and on the videogame

giant's EA Trax site, which is dedicated to the music that appears in EA games.

■ **Hot Topic.** Starting at the end of February, the retailer has given counter placement to a FFLT teaser CD, which includes two tracks from the upcoming album, and retails for less than \$3. Fans can get one of the band's shirts and the CD together for \$12, Schur says.

■ **MySpace.** The band performed at a MySpace Secret Show last summer in Omaha, Neb., alongside Hawthorne Heights and Secondhand Serenade.

■ **MTV.** On March 5, FFLT will open for the Cure at a concert in Valencia, Spain, which will be filmed by MTV and play on MTV International as part of the April run-up to the album's release, Schur says.

In addition, billboard.com debuted the guitar-driven anthem "We All Turn Back to Dust" on Jan. 23, tallying 2,800 streams in just two days.

That's not to say Schur won't take advantage of traditional ways to break through, namely touring. Currently, the band is on Hot Topic's 2008 Take Action tour alongside Every Time I Die and the Bled, and it has landed a spot on the 2008 Vans Warped tour, which also counts EA as a sponsor.

"I genuinely believe, because we've done the two years of work, that From First to Last will become the biggest rock band on earth," Schur says. "Brick by brick, we're going to build them into what we know they are. They've made the record that will demand the respect." ■■■

WORLD BY WES ORSHOSKI

# The Long Haul

Anti-'s Devotchka Is Winning Fans Over, One At A Time

**W**hen he founded Devotchka as an "experiment" more than nine years ago, singer Nick Urata's idea was to blur the line between the musics of East and West, between gypsy and mariachi, tubas and theremins, bouzoukis and guitars. There was a "pinning away for older times and exotic, faraway places," he says. "It was a time when I thought, 'How the hell am I ever going to get there? Why don't we try to get there in the music?'"

At the time, success meant merely being able to keep this experiment afloat, and make some money doing it. While that remains a concern almost a decade later (the group's five indie releases have sold only a combined 80,000 copies in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan), a lot has changed.

If co-manager Mat Hall recalls days when he had to convince everyone from labels to writers that Devotchka's music wasn't some "world-music nightmare," he and the band now find themselves in such unlikely positions as having to decline fast-food giant McDonald's request to use a Devotchka song in a commercial.

For the majority of listeners in and outside of the music industry, Devotchka's meld of unlikely musical bedfellows has proved a hard pill to swallow. But the critically lauded group and its management's long-term strategy of earning one fan at a time is inching toward pay dirt.

Nearing the March 18 release of its sixth album, "A Mad and Faithful Telling," Urata's vision—of creating cinematic music capturing the feeling of "black-and-white movies from another country" and the accordion/wedding jams of his childhood—is enjoying some of the best media attention of the band's career. In

addition to binders of glowing press, Devotchka has been anointed a band to watch by the likes of KCRW Santa Monica, Calif., and NPR. Such noncommercial radio fans as KEXP Seattle and KCMF Minneapolis will spotlight the group on the air next month from South by Southwest.

The band will make its first appearance at the annual Coachella festival this year and will appear on "Late Night With Conan O'Brien" before embarking on U.S. and European tours. The fact that Anti- is releasing the new album is viewed as an achievement on its own by some, as the Colorado band joins such praised labelmates as Tom Waits, Nick Cave and Neko Case.

Things are congealing for Devotchka for a variety of reasons, none smaller than the appearance of its music in last year's Academy Award-winning "Little Miss Sunshine." It created a spike in sales, but not as much as band and management would have liked. That soundtrack success deemed steadily increasing radio and press support and smart, tenacious bookings that found the group supporting acts as varied as Donovon and Marilyn Manson.

The Anti- deal follows an attempt by Seymour Stein to sign De-

## DEVOTCHKA



votchka to Sire, which Urata says was stymied by the "suits" at parent company Warner, who viewed the band as unmarketable. It's the type of thinking that tested Urata's faith through the years, as rent bills neared and the band slept on floors.

"It just seemed like labels, agents and talent buyers were like, 'What am I going to do with this wacky band with a tuba?'" he says. "I think that end of the business has gotten kind of narrowed. If you look at any period of time when music has changed for the better, it was always someone coming out of left field."

With fellow East-meets-West ensembles like Gogol Bordello also enjoying higher visibility, manager Hall is leery of listeners attacking Devotchka for jumping on a bandwagon. "They've been doing this for nine years. I see them as pioneers." ■■■

# THE BILLBOARD REVIEWS

## ALBUMS

### POP

#### MICHAEL MCDONALD

##### Soul Speak

Producer: Simon Clinme  
Universal Motown

Release Date: March 4

It's not quite "Motown," but Michael McDonald is certainly taking his time transitioning back to making original music. "Soul Speak" features 11 well-souled covers from his personal favorites, along with a trio of new songs that hold their own amidst their formidable surrounders. Highlights include a winning, sultry take on Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" and subtle versions of Teddy Pendergrass' "Love TKO" and Van Morrison's "Into the Mystic," while a too-lush treatment of Bob Marley's "Redemption Song" is the album's only outright miss. McDonald maintains the soulful mood on the originals, too, with the smooth and quiet "Only God Can Help Me Now," the lush "Can't Get Over You (Getting Over Me)" and the more forceful "Enemy Within." Soul, it seems, still speaks most convincingly in McDonald's world. —GG

### ROCK

#### THE BLACK CROWES

##### Warpaint

Producer: Paul Stacey  
Silver Arrow

Release Date: March 4

When Chris Robinson sings "Hallelujah," come

join the jubilee: on album opener "Goodbye Daughters of the Revolution," it's an invitation Black Crowes fans consider overdue. "Warpaint" is the group's first new studio album in seven years, and somehow it's more energetic and focused than anything since, perhaps, 1994's "Amorica." "Warpaint" mines the same Allmans-to-Zappa synthesis of influences that's been the Crowes' stock in trade but finds the group fortified by sharp songwriting and live-tight, live-sounding performances. The Crowes remain loud and proud proponents of psychedelically trippiness on "Daughters," "Whoo Hule!" and "Wounded Bird," and dig into some gritty grooves on "Walk Believer Walk," "Evergreen" and a spirited cover of the Rev. Charlie Jackson's "God's Got It." "Oh Josephine" and "There's Gold in Them Hills" deliver melodic moments, and the 11-song set establishes the group's return as something to crow about. —GG

### KATHLEEN EDWARDS

##### Asking for Flowers

Producers: Kathleen Edwards, Jim Scott  
Zoh/Rounder

Release Date: March 4

"Asking for Flowers" is a fourth-album masterpiece from this Canadian singer/songwriter, filled with literate and provocative lyricism, vivid characters and cin-

### GUTTER TWINS

#### Saturalia

Producers: Greg Dulli, Mark Lanegan, Mathias Schneeberger  
Sap Pop

Release Date: March 4

The Gutter Twins' Sap Pop debut, "Saturalia," is teeming with the kind of raw and gritty music one might expect to hear kicked around in, well, the gutter. And considering the record is a collaboration between Mark Lanegan and Greg Dulli, that's certainly not a bad thing. There's something ominous and satanic that possesses the guitar riffs scrawling all over "Idle Hands," and that spirit is channelled elsewhere on "All Misery/Flowers" and the haunting "Front Street." Hints of blues rock infuse "The Stations" and electronic flourishes highlight "Each to Each," as Lanegan's brooding baritone and Dulli's mellow farrar muse on the absurdities of love. "I tell you my story, so that you might save me," Lanegan intones on "All Misery," and while he may never find the salvation he's seeking, he can rest assured there's someone down here in the dinginess listening. —JM



ematically engaging scenarios. Kathleen Edwards chronicles romantic turmoil in "Bulbado," "The Cheapest Key" and the title track, then turns around for such sweeter romantic paeans as "Sure As Sin" and "Scared at Night." There's the rocking, country-flavored energy of "The Cheapest Key" and "I Make the Dough, You Get the Glory." Elsewhere, she mines topical matters on the draft resister's ode "Oh Sir's War," the media and environmental concerns of "Oh Canada" and "Alicia Ross," whose content was drafted from a real-life murder. After three predecessors, Edwards may be "Asking for Flowers" but we hope she'll be satisfied with well-deserved plaudits. —GG

### STEPHEN MALIKUS & THE JACKS

Real Emotional Trash  
Producer: Stephen Malikus  
Matador

Release Date: March 4

Stephen Malikus has neatly kept all his parts in place on his fourth solo album: the languid lyrical nonsense, the obtuse stories that seem to go nowhere until they do (sometimes), the once-again-lengthy compositions and the '70s-pop-prog trickery. (OK, that's new.) They're all so intact, in fact, that "Real Emotional Trash" feels often calculated and a little drifts, which

is probably the point. "Drag-only Pie" is a messy psychedelic stamp, "Hopscotch Willie" keeps you wondering where he's heading. "We Can't Help You" is a brief, stirring winner, and the 10-minute title epic does some nice bobs and weaves, though it makes, as you might expect, no real sense. Janet Weiss adds welcome flavor on drums and vocals, but overall, how much you enjoy rummaging through the "Trash" will probably depend on the amount of patience you have for the Malikus' indulgences. —JV

### ELECTRONIC

#### AUTCHRE

##### Quaristec

Producer: Autchre  
Warp

Release Date: March 4

"Quaristec" plays out like bits and pieces of a puzzle that never quite fit together, which isn't particularly unusual for this experimental techno duo. The difference here is that the relatively short tracks offer glimpses of ideas that are finished barely fully materializing into something to wrap your head around. The album hops from dense, atmospheric fuzz ("Altibuzz," "Palais Sans") and erratic sequences of glitchy twitches ("Plyphon") to rapid drum machine blips ("Perience") and back again before ever securely finding its feet. "Simmm" show-

cases bright beats that are slowly bathed in a wash of warm electronics, and the closest thing to dance tracks are the thumping "Rave" and "90101-SI-1." At times it feels like a lot is going on, others not so much. The pieces are all there, but it just doesn't add up to more than the sum of its parts. —JM

### JAZZ

#### MARCUS MILLER

##### Marcus

Producer: Marcus Miller  
Concord Jazz

Release Date: March 4

Most largely instrumental jazz albums lose their appeal after the 50-minute mark. Notwithstanding its four R&B-styled vocal tracks (including a winning rendition of Deniece Williams' "Free" by Corinne Bailey Rae), Marcus Miller's zesty CD has adrenaline to spare at the close of its 70-plus-minute funk-and-marathon when he speeds across the finish line with a 83-fueled take on Tower of Power's "What Is Hip?" Released on his own 3 Deuces label distributed by Concord, "Marcus" is the eighth solo outing by Miles Davis' final musical collaborator. Miller's high-in-the-mix bass forgoes core here, but whether it's bottom rumbling in his gently grooved original "Strum" or virtuosic speed on

hot tracks like "Blast," where he also overduces star funk. One of the late-highlight moments is the soulfully lyrical saunter through Davis' "Jean Pierre," co-starring Gregoire Maret on harmonica. —DO

### KAT PARRA

##### Azucar de Amor

Producer: Wayne Wallace  
Patoti

Release Date: March 4

Vocalist Kat Parra indulges her passion for Latin jazz on "Azucar de Amor," her second release for Patoti Records. She opens the disc with a sweet bit of salsa/mambo, "Sugar (Azucar de Amor)," that sets the tone for what proves to be a moveable feast of Latin styles. Parra knows how to light the fuse on a salsa number, and she shows us how it's done on the original tune "Quitale la Gueta." In a completely different mood, Parra delivers a stirring interpretation of "Esta Montaña D'Enfrente," a mystic Sephardic ballad. Her vocal on this number is beautifully shaped, her grasp of this archaic Judeo-Spanish style is remarkable. Parra also shines on "Un Grito," a song she wrote with Wayne Wallace in the Afro-Peruvian land style. It's yet another stylistic groove that she handles with an uncanny feel. —PJV

### ASHTON SHEPHERD

##### Sounds So Good

Producer: Buddy Cannon  
VCA Nashville

Release Date: March 4

There are debut albums, and then there are debut albums that serve notice that the landscape has changed. Twenty-one-year-old Alabama native Ashton Shepherd and producer Buddy Cannon have delivered the latter. Unabashed country in production and theme, the set is refreshing, authentic and delightfully un-PC. Liqueur? Lots of it. Heartache? Check. Dirt roads? Several. Single "Takin' Off This Dain" is destined to be an anthem for women fed up with relationships going nowhere. "I Ain't Dead Yet" finds the singer balancing motherhood and marriage with a night out on the town, while "Not Right Now" embraces "a bit of Crown and a country sound." Conversely, "How Big Are Angel Wings" is a tearjerker about a terminally ill child who asks her doctor the question she can't put to her parents. —KT



### BAUHAUS

#### Go Away White

Producers: Bauhaus, Bob Ezrin  
Bauhaus Music

Release Date: March 4

Recorded in 18 days, some tracks in one take, Bauhaus' fifth studio album proves that even a quarter-century's hiatus can't kill a great band, especially if it was undead to begin with. There's no trickery here—apart from the sinister seduction of Pater Murphy's avar-despairing Transylvanian croon—and the bare, live style makes the band's hairs even more apparent. There's DJ Harvey in David J's swamp-blues bass; Nirvana in the shrieking, submerged guitar of Daniel Ash. But the quartet doesn't compose or perform like elder statesmen. "International Bulat Proof Tolerant" and "Endless Summer of the Damned" are as spry and visceral as its first material. If the band had released a bunch of meandering albums during the past 25 years, you might call "Go Away White" a return to form. Instead, it picks up right where Bauhaus left off: a wet dream for original fans and a blast of recognition for the newly eye-lined. —KM



# THE BILLBOARD **REVIEWS** SINGLES

## FOLK

### JIM WHITE

**Transmoral Skiperoo**  
**Producers:** Joe Pernice, Michael Dering, Jim White, Tucker Martine  
**Label:** Luskia Rep.  
**Release Date:** March 4

Jim White narrated the 2004 film *Searching for the Wrong-Edged Jesus*, an insightful peek at the often dark place where music and religion meet in the rural South. But the title here is meant to describe his recent bouts with contentment, and opener "A Town Called Amen" is a sweet and frothy announcement that White has found some peace of mind after a long spell of conflict. With accompaniment as varied as vocals from Ollabelle and Brazilian percussion from Mauro Refosco, White still keeps us off balance with rich, unpredictable textures ("Diamonds to Coal") that convey lost-in-the-backwoods disorientation ("Counting Numbers in the Air"). He's also got a compelling storyteller who uses words and minor chords to whet our ears with a troubled spirit ("Take Me Away"). But White's new heart happiness can be denied on "Turquoise House," about a man who has found comfort in his nonconformity.—**WR**

## NEW & NOTEWORTHY

**BORN RUFFIANS**  
**Red Yellow & Blue**  
**Producers:** Rusty Santos  
**Label:** Warp  
**Release Date:** March 4

Don't be misled by the **W** Warp Records logo on this Toronto trio's debut full-length. Rather than making Aphex Twin-style electronics, Born Ruffians are in the business of kicking out jump live-band power-pop jams far more concerned with melodic zing than textual depth. Fans of Van Halen and Kiss Hot Heat should find much to admire about "Red Yellow & Blue," which follows a buzzed-about 2006 EP as well as tours with indie A-listers Hot Chip and Peter Dinklage and John. Despite the album title, yelpy-voiced frontman Luke Lalonde spends most of his time singing about animals, not colors. Look out for "Barnacle Goose," "Hummingbird," "Fores Mate for Life"—and wait for it—"Badonkadonkey." Lalonde's prey? A harmless good time.—**MW**

## WORLD

### MARKUS JAMES

**Sneakin' Violin**  
**Producers:** Markus James  
**Label:** Firenze  
**Release Date:** Feb. 19

Of late, a handful of American artists have explored the connection between West African music and American blues, but Markus James has lived this connection for the past seven years (and four albums). "Sneakin' Violin" con-

tinues his profound world blues passage. Working, as usual, with several Malian players, including Hassi Sare (njarka violin), Mamadou Sidibe (calabash), and Cécile, Viewou Parka Toure (cadenza guitar) and Maria Sissolo (ngoma). James laid down tracks in Mali, California and Mississippi. His songs radiate a dark, nearly forbidding glow, while his sparse, shadowy arrangements cut a groove that draws deeply from the hypnotic vein of Malian music. "All That You Can't Keep," "Exile Tracks" and "I Won't Let It" are extremely distinctive pieces, driven by a seductive rhythmic circularity that's a keystone of Malian traditional tunes and Delta blues.—**PVV**

## POP

**GAVIN DeGRAW**  
**In Love With a Girl (3:25)**  
**Producers:** Howard Benson  
**Writer:** G. DeGraw  
**Producers:** G. DeGraw/  
**Worm-Tamerline, BMI**  
**Label:** J Records

If this single is any indication, the next full-length from Gavin DeGraw will have its rough rock edges. "In Love With a Girl" opens with heavily distorted guitars with minor chords roll through, but he is not deceived: Lyrically, the track is happy, with the 30-year-old songwriter heralding a girl that "understands." One flaw: DeGraw's normally dependable croon: the unnecessary presence of auto-tuning, which is mildly distracting. Beyond that, "Girl" is a rocking home run in the same ballpark as "I Don't Want to Be." The chorus is buoyant, backed with idyllic drum tracks, allowing driving each word-heavy verse, as DeGraw's snappy piano lines may have fans pining, heaven forbid, air piano.—**KH**

## R&B

**RAHEEM DeVAUGHN**  
**Customer (4:05)**  
**Producers:** Ivan Barlas, Carvin Haggins  
**Label:** J Records  
**Writer:** C. McHugh, I. Barlas, J. Smith, K. Oliver  
**Producers:** various  
**Label:** Jive/Zomba

Although Raheem DeVaughn's designation as R&B hip-hop-soul-rock star may be difficult to warm up to, his music is not. After a decent debut album, DeVaughn returns with much-improved sophomore effort "Love Behind the Melody." After first reaping top 40 rewards on Billboard's R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart in 2005 with "Guess Who Loves You More," his single "Woman" from the new album peaked at No. 18. "Customer" offers equal promise, with its catchy tune backed by a smooth vocal, mellow accompaniment and heavy-sounding percussion. Despite the clichéd food metaphors for love, DeVaughn manages to get the point across and create a soulful mood.—**SB**

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## K&I

**KAKI KING**  
**2 O'Clock (5:50)**  
**Producers:** Malcolm Burn  
**Writer:** K. King  
**Producers:** Domimo (BMI)  
**Label:** Velour Recordings

One of the words that Kaki King uses on MySpace to describe her acoustic guitar sound is "shoegaze," referring to the unassuming nature of her work. But this is also a disservice, for King's music is too stimulating to be grouped with a genre that can induce snoring. "2 O'Clock" from "Dreaming of Revenge" (March 11), details a gray afternoon where King examines a

## TRIPLE A

**STEVE WINWOOD**  
**FEATURING ERIC CLAPTON**  
**Dirty City (4:04)**  
**Producers:** Steve Winwood  
**Writer:** S. Winwood  
**Producers:** not listed  
**Label:** Columbia

Steve Winwood revisits his days with the short-lived Blind Faith supergroup on the first single from forthcoming "Nine Lives," and demonstrates that he's one of few vocalists who refuses to be bowled over by Clapton's guitar riffs. Much less slick and overproduced than efforts that made him famous in the '80s, "Dirty City" is a slice of old-school white boy blues, with Winwood moaning about "moving up to higher ground" and Clapton noodling away in the background. Dazzling.—**CH**

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**COLBIE CAILLAT**  
**Realize (4:05)**  
**Producers:** Miami Blue  
**Writer:** C. Caillat, J. Reeves, M. Blue  
**Producers:** Coccarone, BMI  
**Label:** Dancing Squire/INAF/Opium for the People, ASCAP  
**Universal Republic**

The tide remains high for folk-pop singer/songwriter Colbie Caillat, whose second single off debut "Coco" will make listeners "Realize" that her album has some serious legs. Fresh off multimillion smash "Bubbly" and MySpace recognition, Caillat again delivers an effortless waltz with simple acoustic guitar, instantly singalong melody and harmonies colored by singer Jason Reeves. At the core is a reflection of a budding relationship: "We'd never have to wonder if we missed out on each other." "Realize" is sure to wash up on a shore near you as the weather warms for those unexpected spring flings.—**MM**

## NATASHA BEDINGFIELD

**Pocketful of Sunshine (3:23)**  
**Producers:** John Shanks  
**Writer:** N. Bedingfield,  
**D. Brisebois, J. Shanks**  
**Producers:**EMI Blackwood, BMI,  
**Gator Baby/EMI Ltd.**  
**Label:** Epic

After delays and much fretting, Epic returned Brit Natasha Bedingfield to U.S. hit turf with "Love Like This." While the cutesy recording was engaging to a point—and reached No. 11 on the Billboard Hot 100 and No. 1 on Hot Dance Club Play—the addition of felebe-m rapper Sean Kingston felt deliberate, if not forced. Second single and title track of sophomore album "Pocketful of Sunshine" puts Bedingfield back on accomplished melodic footing. Produced by the peerless John Shanks, the single boasts a soaring, anthemic chorus, gleeful tempo and percussive footprint mighty enough to again demand a fistful of club remixes. And there's plenty more to the full-length to propel the singer/songwriter. After "Pocketful" radiates its charms, we'll be waiting for superlative ballad "Soulmate," a track that not only made it in the United States from a dramatic reworking of her original U.K. CD release, but charted in nearly a dozen nations, including a top 10 showing at home. Hopefully, all in due time.—**CT**



## DANCE

**THE ROLLING STONES**  
**You Can't Always Get What You Want (Soulsaw Remix) (3:53)**  
**Producers:** Jimmy Miller  
**Writer:** M. Jagger, K. Richards  
**Producers:** Soulsaw  
**Label:** ABKCO, BMI  
**Label:** ABKCO

Operating under the moniker Soulsaw, brothers David and Stephen Dewaele have made a name for themselves producing edgy electro-rock remixes for Daft Punk, Hot Chip and Gorillaz. This playful, gutsy remix of the classic Stones anthem from 1969 album "Let It Bleed" sends Jagger's soulful vocal over a bubbly electro-bass riff inspired by the loose groove of the original, and builds to a beautifully stripped-down dance beat that echoes Prince's 1986 No. 1 hit "Xs." Meanwhile, bit-sized samples of the powerful opening, famously recorded with the London Black Club, fade in and out like buzzing flies, producing catchy breaks. Suspenseful, clever and hard-grooving, this digital-only single is featured in the upcoming movie "21," and will get rock radio down on the dancefloor.—**SP**

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## LEGENDS CHRONICLE

**EDITED BY JONATHAN COHEN (ALBUMS) AND CHUCK TAYLOR (SINGLES)**

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Sophia Baratta, Gary Guff, Courtney Harding, Katie Hasty, Kevin Mason, Michael Menachem, Jim Menza, Dan Quinn, Steve Phillips, John Robinson, Chuck Taylor, Chris L. Tins, Ken Tucker, Philip Van Velsik, Jeff Vogel, Michael Wood

**PICK #1:** A new release predicted to hit the top half of the chart in the corresponding format.

**CRITICS' CHOICE #1:** A new release, regardless of chart potential, highly recommended for musical merit.

All albums commercially available in the United States are eligible. Send album review copies to Jonathan Cohen, 1000 Broadway, Seventh Floor, New York, NY 10003 or to the writers in the appropriate bureau.

GLOBAL BY MARK SUTHERLAND

# BRITs Boosts

After performing their hit song "Valerie" together at the recent BRIT Awards, Amy Winehouse and Mark Ronson are again reunited as the main beneficiaries of sales boosts from the event.

Sales of Winehouse's "Back to Black"—The Deluxe Edition" picked up 60% in week-on-week sales, from 19,028 to 30,363, according to the Official U.K. Charts Co., propelling the album into the top three. Over-the-counter sales figures were not available for Ronson, but market-leading retailer HMV saw a 60%-plus boost in his sales.

The chart positions of all the night's performers—including Mika, Rihanna and Leona Lewis—improved in the aftermath of the event, with the BRITs boost looking set to revive previously disappointing sales of Kylie Minogue's "X" album. After a strong performance of "Wow" at the show, her album surged 38-24, while the song rocketed 18-5 on the singles chart in its 10th chart week.

TV ratings for the event, broadcast on ITV1, averaged 6.1 million, up from 5.3 million in 2007 and 4.6 million in 2005, and HMV head of music Rudy Osorio says the BRITs effect is becoming more notable every year.

"People do respond to the broadcast and all the publicity, and there's a growing upward trend," he says. "[It] can help artists like Mark Ronson become household names as well and see very significant increases in their album sales. It's a very good platform for an artist to connect with the mainstream and then build sales for the rest of the year."



MARK RONSON AND AMY WINEHOUSE'S performance at the Feb. 20 BRIT Awards proved to be a huge sales catalyst for their latest albums.

Album:  
Songs performed at the BRITs:  
BRIT Awards won:  
Chart position on Feb. 17:  
Chart position on Feb. 24:  
HMV week-on-week sales boost:



**AMY WINEHOUSE**  
"Back to Black—  
The Deluxe Edition" (Island)

2  
0  
No. 14  
No. 3  
+28.2%

**MARK RONSON**  
"Version" (Columbia)

3  
1  
No. 22  
No. 4  
+66.2%

**KYLIE MINOGUE**  
"X" (Parlophone)

1  
1  
No. 38  
No. 24  
+64.8%

## MATERIAL ISSUE

Cagle Scores Big With Outside Songwriting Help

Country star Chris Cagle has returned to the promised land. His fourth album, "My Life's Been a Country Song" (Capitol Nashville), debuts at No. 1 on Billboard's Top Country Albums this week, his second chart-topper. The set, which sold 37,000 first-week copies in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan, also debuts at No. 8 on the Billboard 200, his first top 10 entry on the big chart.

Meanwhile, first single "What Kinda Gone" is No. 9 on Hot Country Songs. It's Cagle's first trip into the airplay top 10 since "Chicks Dig It" peaked at No. 5 in late 2003.

The success comes after a professional dry spell and a period of personal turmoil. In addition to an ongoing lawsuit involving his former manager, Cagle suffered vocal problems and the shock of learning that a baby that he thought was his turned out not to be. "I was beat up and broken-hearted and locked in a bottle, and there's a lot of the last couple years that I don't remember," he says. "At

the same time, I had some growing up to do."

After selling more than 500,000 copies of each of his first two albums and scoring four top 10 airplay singles, including the No. 1 "Breathe In, I Breathe Out," Cagle's third album sold less than 400,000 units and didn't produce any radio hits.

Produced by Scott Hendricks and Cagle, the new set features none of his own material—a departure from earlier albums. After sitting through hundreds of reviews, new producer Hendricks told Cagle his material was keeping him from being a bigger star. "That was hard for me to swallow," Cagle says. "I'm a songwriter. But the bottom line is as an artist, you got to make the best music, period."

Cagle and Hendricks instead turned to songs from Nashville's top tunesmiths, including Dave Berg, Craig Wiseman, Brett James, Wendell Mobley and Neil Thrasher.

Country KSOP Salt Lake City music director



Debbi Turpin says Cagle "just needed the right song to get him back on track." The new single, she says, "has a great vibe and paints a vivid picture of this stressed-out guy wondering when his girl is coming back, if at all."

Country KMLE Phoenix music director Gwen Foster agrees. "It really didn't matter that Chris had not had any recent hits," she says. "In our world, a great song is a great song."

—Ken Tucker

## REINVENTING REGGAETON

Three years after Angel & Khriz's mega-hit "Ven Bailao" rode the reggaeton explosion all the way to Europe, the duo is back with a quirky new song for an evolving genre.

"La Vecina," the first single from the Puerto Rican pair's March 11 "Showtime" album on V1/Machete, layers electric and acoustic guitar and trumpets over the familiar reggaeton beat. The track leapt from its debut position at No. 26 on Billboard's Latin Rhythm Airplay chart to No. 16 last week, and is now No. 19, though its audience rose 8% during last week.

Angel & Khriz have been featured on a couple of reggaeton hits since hitting No. 3 on the Hot Latin Songs chart with "Ven Bailao" in 2005, but their new album represents something of a comeback. The two have toured Spain and Latin America, and parted ways with indie label MVD to join V1/Machete, home to superstars Don Omar and Hector "El Father."



"We were [touring] all these countries and at the same time getting a little bit of each culture," Khriz (aka Christian Colón) says. "With the music we heard, we wanted to make an album that was for everyone. 'La Vecina' is an example of that."

The artist wouldn't elaborate on the "differences" with the indie that led to the change of label, but acknowledged that Angel & Khriz's new home puts them in company with some of reggaeton's biggest stars.

As for what's happened in the years since Daddy Yankee's "Gasolina" was a massive crossover hit, Khriz says reggaeton has firmly established itself as a genre with discerning fans, whether the music is trendy or not. "Those who make good reggaeton will stand out," he says. "The genre won't die."

—Ayala Ben-Yehuda

DANCE BY KERRI MASON

## Mushrooming Success

Though it sits on the outskirts of the dance music mainstream, psych-trance duo Infected Mushroom is one of the genre's best chances for crossover success.

Amir "Duvdev" Duvdevani and Erez Eisen played 135 gigs in 2007, including Coachella and Baltimore's Virgin Festival; turned away more than 1,000 fans from a sold-out show at Avalon in Hollywood; got a proper rock 'n' roll manager; and made the ultimate commitment to the pursuit of bigger things: They moved from their homeland of Israel to the mean streets of Los Angeles. They will play their first South by Southwest show March 13.

"They've grown to the point where they now have truly massive fan bases on several different continents, and their music has been moving, very organically, toward a more mainstream, melodic and vocal-oriented sound," says manager Jeff Jampol, who also oversees the Doors.

Infected Mushroom first appeared in the late '90s and soon came to define the wall-of-sound style of goa, or psych-delic trance. "It's really colorful music, and there's nonstop movement," Duvdev says. "It's very intense, very much in its face. Sonically, it can go anywhere, from techno to metal to flamenco, sometimes in the same song." The act's six albums have sold a combined 27,000 units in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

The pair toured as DJs for most of its career, but recently shifted to a band format, with Duvdev on vocals and Eisen on keyboards, plus guitarist Tommy Cunningham and Brazilian percussionist Rogério Jardim.

"It's what a live show should be all about," looking agent Ron Rivlin of Coast II Coast says. "A full band that performs their own music and hummers away at their instruments, with an explosive delivery."



INFECTED MUSHROOM

The duo is working on its seventh album and collaborating with fellow L.A. carpetbagger Paul Oakenfold. Duvdev describes it as "a hybrid of trance and metal, but our influences are all over the place."

"You can call it electronica, psy-trance or any other name," Jampol says, "but at its heart it's really rock 'n' roll."

## BON IVER BREAKS THROUGH

When Justin Vernon, who records as Bon Iver, spoke to *Billboard* a few months ago, he mentioned that none of the albums he had made with any of his previous bands had sold more than 800 copies. This week, Vernon shatters that record, as his solo debut, "For Emma, Forever Ago," shifts 4,000 copies, good enough for a No. 182 debut on the *Billboard* 200 and a No. 5 entry on *Heatseekers*.

This sales feat is especially impressive given that "For Emma," which Vernon self-released in 2007, has been floating around the Internet for several months. Lucy Robinson, a publicist at his label, Jagjaguwar, says the company implemented several initiatives to ensure people picked up the release. "We offered a free poster with pre-ordered copies of the album and a bonus track on iTunes that was only available if you bought the entire record," she says. "We also made purchasing a record a condition to gain entry to some in-scores."

Bon Iver is also on tour with labelmate Black Mountain, a pairing that Robinson says attracts a diverse crowd. "It works well for both bands, because they have different but ultimately complementary fan bases," she says.

Radio is also beginning to pick up on the album; with very little effort on their part, Robinson says triple A stations have begun requesting tracks. Public radio stations throughout the Midwest have also taken a strong interest.

Middle America is the base for much of the marketing effort, including a number of Midwest-centric retail campaigns. "He's from Wisconsin and the label is based in Indiana, so there is a huge Midwest component," Robinson says. "He's a hometown boy at heart and was all about keeping it local." —Cortney Harding

BON IVER



THE MOUNTAIN GOATS

## 'MOUNTAIN' HIGH

New Album, Book Raise Exposure For Indie Favorite

After years of critical acclaim, press attention and touring, the challenge facing the team working the new Mountain Goats record became translating all the name recognition into sales. "Lots of people know who [lead singer/songwriter John Darnielle] is, but don't take the extra step to listen," Beggers Banquet publicist Sonya

Kolowrat says. "What we've done with this record is really try to build beyond his rabid core fan base and use the word-of-mouth and other strategies to get him new audiences."

If first-week sales are any indication, this effort has paid off. The album, "Heretic Pride," sold 3,660 copies in its first week of U.S. release,

according to Nielsen SoundScan, and debuted at No. 8 on the *Heatseekers* chart.

"We really let John Darnielle take the lead with some of the marketing," Beggers GM Matt Harmon says. "John used his blog, Last Plane to Jakarta, to announce the new record and the availability of a digital mini-EP. We're also going to radio with this record, and we've had tons of NPR support."

Beggars is also trying to maximize Darnielle's book on Black Sabbath's "Master of Reality" album, which will be released in April by Continuum Press as part of its "Thirty Three and a Third" series. "We've talked about doing a bundle with Amazon to sell the book and the record together," Kolowrat says. "The publishers have also been using the new record in their press campaign." The Thirty Three and a Third Web site, for instance, offers a PDF of the first chapter of the book along with a video from "Heretic Pride." That video, for the track "Sax Rohmer #1," also premiered prior to the record's release on *spinner.com* and was posted on numerous blogs.

The bookishness doesn't stop with just promoting Darnielle's novel. "We're also servicing indie bookstores as part of our lifestyle marketing campaign," Kolowrat says. "It's not uncommon to service bars and restaurants, but we wanted to branch out and find other appropriate venues."

Finally, Kolowrat wanted to include something unique for the members of the press who have championed the band for so long. "Musician and visual artist Jeffrey Lewis did a comic strip that explained all of the songs, and it was sent to the media," she says. "It was a neat visual and a special treat." —Cortney Harding

# THE HOT BOX

A WEEKLY ROUNDUP OF NOTABLE CHART ACHIEVEMENTS



TOUCH MY BODY

**"BODY" OF WORK**  
Janet Jackson's "Touch My Body" sits at No. 32 on the Billboard Hot 100, giving the diva her 31st top 40 hit. That's the most by any female artist since Carey's debut in 1980. All time among women, the trail is Madonna, Aretha Franklin, Connie Francis and Janet Jackson.

**REINCARNATION**  
Nick Lowe's "Jesus of Cool" bows at No. 32 on Top Pop Catalog Albums. On its 30th anniversary, the set has been reissued under its original British title. It spent 10 weeks on the Billboard 200 with the U.S. title "Pure Pop for Now People."



**LIKE 'WEEPS**  
After weeks with Jake Shimabukuro played George Strait's "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," his "Gentle Weeps" re-enters Top World Albums at No. 6, up 204K. His cover's digital sales surpass a 1,000K gain.

# CHART BEAT

>>>As a founding member of the Kinks, Ray Davies made his debut on the Billboard album chart 43 years and three months ago. This week he finally makes his solo debut, an "Working Men's Club" entry at No. 140. His brother, Dave Davies, has two solo albums to his credit. They charted in 1960-91.

>>>Fred Bronson has more details on Ray Davies as well as B.B. King's seventh No. 1 on Top Blues Albums and what could be the fifth single in the rock era to debut at No. 100 on the Billboard Hot 100 and go all the way to No. 1.

Read Fred Bronson every week of billboard.com/fred.



## Over the Counter

GEOFF MAYFIELD gmayfield@billboard.com

# Between Grammys And Oscars, Janet's On Deck

Album sales sit in the low tide of the awards season, with last issue's sales charts reflecting the impact of the Grammy Awards and next week's gauging impact on select titles by the Academy Awards telecast.

### HANCOCK



Past experience suggests the Oscars will have more impact on soundtracks that contain best song nominees than it will on winning or nominated score albums. Last year, for example, the showcase of three nominated scores helped the standard edition of "Dreamgirls" reverse from a pre-telecast dip of 18% to a post-Oscar jolt of 19%, amounting to a week of 45,000 units sold.

On the other hand, last year's win-

ning score album from "Babel" did almost double its sales, but then ended up moving less than 2,000 units in the post-Oscar frame.

Figure the best action from this year's show will go to the "Once" album, which includes the winning "Falling Slowly" by Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova, and the soundtrack to "Enchanted," which had each of its three nominated songs performed.

Meanwhile, in the two weeks since the Grammys' Feb. 10 telecast, Herbie Hancock's album of the year winner "River: The Joni Letters" has sold just shy of 80,000 copies, more than the 63,000 it sold in its first 20 weeks.

That volley refutes a couple of the hunches that NPR contributor Joel Rose threw at the Grammys in a commentary that posed as a news report on the Feb. 8 edition of "All Things Considered," which stated that a best picture Oscar can be worth tens of millions of dollars

while Grammys will deliver "much smaller" results, an assertion that ignores the career-changing momentum that artists like Tina Turner, Bonnie Raitt, Ricky Martin and Norah Jones got from big nights at the Grammys.

No matter how much "River" ends up selling, a beneficiary from the 2000 tele-

cast suggests Hancock's bigger residual may lie a couple of years out.

After an album of the year nomination and a performance at the ceremony helped Diana Krall's 1999 album "When I Look in Your Eyes" reach No. 56 on the big chart, her next release in 2001, "The Look of Love," became the first mainstream jazz album to bow inside the top 10 in the history of the Billboard 200, while two of her later albums also reached that chart's top 10.

With a career that has spread noteworthy albums both as leader and sideman through five decades, Hancock's pre-Grammy profile was certainly higher than Krall's pre-2000 fame, but don't be surprised if his next album starts with a bigger splash than he's ever seen before.

**SLEEPY TIME:** "Sleep Through the Stars" serves as an ironic title for Jack Johnson's chart-topping set, as his is the only one on either the Billboard 200 or Top Pop Catalog Albums to beat 100,000 copies (104,000).

Somehow I can hear John Mar-maduke chiding labels about the need to better plan release dates, a campaign the Hastings Entertainment CEO has waged since the 2006 convention of re-

tail trade group NARM.

For what it's worth, eight albums released between Oct. 28 and the end of 2007 that never hit No. 1 had opening numbers that would have been large enough to lead this week's list.

Chart peak shouldn't be the sole criterion labels consider when scheduling a release date, and record companies could rightfully argue that albums released in November and December will likely find faster starts in those months than in the slower store traffic of January or February. But I'm just sayin'...

Next week's likely No. 1 is destined for a heftier total than the one now held by Johnson's three-week champ, Nielsen SoundScan's Feb. 27 Building chart placed first-day sales from reporting chains for Janet Jackson's new "Discipline" at 55,000 copies, which promises a sturdy sum at the top of next issue's chart.

By comparison, when Foo Fighters' "Echoes, Silence, Patience & Grace" started with 45,000 copies in October on the Wednesday Building chart, it went on to sell 168,000 in the first week, while Celine Dion's "Taking Chances" moved 214,000 in its first full frame after a November opening day of 58,000.

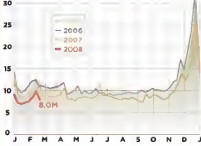
## Market Watch A Weekly National Music Sales Report

### Weekly Unit Sales

|                     | ALBUMS    | DIGITAL TRACKS | TOTAL      |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| This Week           | 1,973,000 | 1,190,000      | 2,163,000  |
| Last Week           | 9,789,000 | 1,238,000      | 21,949,000 |
| Change              | -18.6%    | -3.9%          | -2.7%      |
| This Week Last Year | 9,183,000 | 863,000        | 16,854,000 |
| Change              | -13.2%    | 37.9%          | 26.7%      |

\*Digital album sales are also included within album sales.

### Weekly Album Sales (Million Units)



### Year-To-Date

|                    | 2007        | 2008        | CHANGE |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| OVERALL UNIT SALES |             |             |        |
| Albums             | 73,570,000  | 64,398,000  | -12.5% |
| Digital Tracks     | 141,713,000 | 179,205,000 | 26.5%  |
| Store Sales        | 362,000     | 229,000     | -36.7% |
| Total              | 215,645,000 | 243,832,000 | 13.1%  |
| Albums w/TEA*      | 87,741,300  | 82,318,500  | -5.9%  |

\*No. 1 album from independent album sales (TEA) with 10 tracks or more, excluding all other album sales.

### DIGITAL TRACKS SALES



### SALES BY ALBUM FORMAT

|          | CD         | Digital    | Cassette | Other |
|----------|------------|------------|----------|-------|
| Albums   | 66,044,000 | 54,286,000 | -17.8%   |       |
| Digital  | 7,312,000  | 9,862,000  | 34.9%    |       |
| Cassette | 69,000     | 22,000     | -68.1%   |       |
| Other    | 145,000    | 228,000    | 57.2%    |       |

For weeks ending Feb. 26, 2008. Figures are rounded. \*Includes Nielsen SoundScan data for album sales and track sales. Copyright collected and provided by:



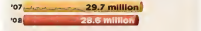
### YEAR-TO-DATE SALES BY ALBUM CATEGORY

|              | 2007       | 2008       | CHANGE |
|--------------|------------|------------|--------|
| Current      | 43,851,000 | 35,784,000 | -18.4% |
| Catalog      | 29,719,000 | 28,614,000 | -3.7%  |
| Deep Catalog | 21,999,000 | 20,379,000 | -9.9%  |

### CURRENT ALBUM SALES



### CATALOG ALBUM SALES



Nielsen SoundScan reports on current and past sales within the first 10 weeks of an album's release (12 months for catalog only releases). Sales that do not include all of the Nielsen SoundScan retailers are marked as "partial." Partial catalog sales are catalog. Deep catalog is a subset of catalog for 11 or more than 30 weeks.

**MAR 8 2008** **THE Billboard 200**

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | ARTIST | ALBUM                                                                                         | PEAK POSITION | WEEKS ON CHART | TITLE                               | CERT. |
|------|-----------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1    | 1         | 3      | <b>ALICIA KEYSON</b><br>ALICIA KEYS<br>A POWER... DESTROYING LABEL (IMP)                      | 1             | 1              | Sleep Through The Static            | 1     |
| 2    | 3         | 3      | <b>ALICIA KEYS</b><br>ALICIA KEYS<br>A POWER... DESTROYING LABEL (IMP)                        | 1             | 1              | As I Am                             | 1     |
| 3    | 7         | 24     | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>AMY WINEHOUSE<br>BACK TO BLACK (IMP)                                  | 2             | 4              | Back to Black                       | 1     |
| 4    | NEW       | 1      | <b>KOZ BOY KIDS</b><br>KOZ BOY KIDS<br>KIDZ BOOP (IMP)                                        | 1             | 1              | Kidz Boop                           | 1     |
| 5    | 10        | 13     | <b>SOUNDTRACK</b><br>SOUNDTRACK<br>STEP UP 2: THE STREETS (IMP)                               | 2             | 3              | Step Up 2: The Streets              | 1     |
| 6    | 6         | 6      | <b>SOUNDTRACK</b><br>SOUNDTRACK<br>JUNO (IMP)                                                 | 1             | 1              | Juno                                | 1     |
| 7    | 25        | 21     | <b>FACE BEELS</b><br>SARA BAREILLE<br>FACE BEELS<br>LITTLE VOICE (IMP)                        | 1             | 1              | Little Voice                        | 1     |
| 8    | NEW       | 1      | <b>CHRIS CAGLE</b><br>CHRIS CAGLE<br>MY LIVER BEEN A COUNTRY SONG (IMP)                       | 1             | 1              | My Liver's Been A Country Song      | 1     |
| 9    | 9         | 17     | <b>MARY J. BLIGE</b><br>MARY J. BLIGE<br>GROWING PAINS (IMP)                                  | 1             | 1              | Growing Pains                       | 1     |
| 10   | 7         | 10     | <b>TAYLOR SWIFT</b><br>TAYLOR SWIFT<br>TAYLOR SWIFT (IMP)                                     | 1             | 1              | Taylor Swift                        | 1     |
| 11   | 6         | 2      | <b>SHERYL CROW</b><br>SHERYL CROW<br>DETOURS (IMP)                                            | 1             | 1              | Detours                             | 1     |
| 12   | 11        | 2      | <b>KEYSHIA COLE</b><br>KEYSHIA COLE<br>JUST LIKE YOU (IMP)                                    | 1             | 1              | Just Like You                       | 1     |
| 13   | 12        | 18     | <b>CHRIS BROWN</b><br>CHRIS BROWN<br>EXCLUSIVE (IMP)                                          | 1             | 1              | Exclusive                           | 1     |
| 14   | 11        | 9      | <b>MILEY CYRUS</b><br>MILEY CYRUS<br>MEET MEYR CYRUS (IMP)                                    | 1             | 1              | Meet Meyr Cyrus                     | 1     |
| 15   | 26        | 19     | <b>SOUNDTRACK</b><br>SOUNDTRACK<br>ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (IMP)                              | 1             | 1              | Alvin And The Chipmunks             | 1     |
| 16   | 5         | 159    | <b>HERBIE HANCOCK</b><br>HERBIE HANCOCK<br>RIVER: THE JONI LANTIER (IMP)                      | 1             | 1              | River: The Joni Lantier             | 1     |
| 17   | 4         | 5      | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS<br>2008 GRAMMY NOMINEES (IMP)                       | 1             | 1              | 2008 Grammy Nominees                | 1     |
| 18   | 15        | 18     | <b>DAUGHTY</b><br>DAUGHTY<br>DAUGHTY (IMP)                                                    | 1             | 1              | Daughty                             | 1     |
| 19   | NEW       | 1      | <b>JIM JONES</b><br>JIM JONES<br>HARLEMITE AMERICAN GANGSTER (IMP)                            | 1             | 1              | Harlemite American Gangster         | 1     |
| 20   | 32        | 38     | <b>SOUNDTRACK</b><br>SOUNDTRACK<br>ACROSS THE UNIVERSE: DELUXE EDITION (IMP)                  | 1             | 1              | Across The Universe: Deluxe Edition | 1     |
| 21   | 27        | 21     | <b>COLBIE CAULAT</b><br>COLBIE CAULAT<br>COCON (IMP)                                          | 1             | 1              | Cocon                               | 1     |
| 22   | 18        | 18     | <b>GARTH BROOKS</b><br>GARTH BROOKS<br>THE ULTIMATE HIM (IMP)                                 | 1             | 1              | The Ultimate Him                    | 1     |
| 23   | 25        | 17     | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS<br>NOW 26 (IMP)                                     | 1             | 1              | NOW 26                              | 1     |
| 24   | 35        | 35     | <b>JONAS BROTHERS</b><br>JONAS BROTHERS<br>JONAS BROTHERS (IMP)                               | 1             | 1              | Jonas Brothers                      | 1     |
| 25   | 17        | 4      | <b>LENNY KRAVITZ</b><br>LENNY KRAVITZ<br>IT IS TIME FOR A LOVE REVOLUTION (IMP)               | 1             | 1              | It Is Time For A Love Revolution    | 1     |
| 26   | 31        | 18     | <b>ROBERT PALTMAN / ALISON KRAUSS</b><br>ROBERT PALTMAN / ALISON KRAUSS<br>RAISING SAND (IMP) | 1             | 1              | Raising Sand                        | 1     |
| 27   | 31        | 31     | <b>EAGLES</b><br>EAGLES<br>LONG ROAD OUT OF EDEN (IMP)                                        | 1             | 1              | Long Road Out Of Eden               | 1     |
| 28   | 30        | 30     | <b>SUGARLAND</b><br>SUGARLAND<br>ENJOY THE RIDE (IMP)                                         | 1             | 1              | Enjoy The Ride                      | 1     |
| 29   | 32        | 32     | <b>RADIOHEAD</b><br>RADIOHEAD<br>IN RAINBOWS (IMP)                                            | 1             | 1              | In Rainbows                         | 1     |
| 30   | 27        | 13     | <b>LUPE FIASCO</b><br>LUPE FIASCO<br>LUPE FIASCO: THE ALBUM (IMP)                             | 1             | 1              | Lupe Fiasco's The Album             | 1     |
| 31   | 52        | 50     | <b>SOUNDTRACK</b><br>SOUNDTRACK<br>ONCE (IMP)                                                 | 1             | 1              | Once                                | 1     |
| 32   | 27        | 7      | <b>K. D. LANG</b><br>K. D. LANG<br>WATERSHED (IMP)                                            | 1             | 1              | Watershed                           | 1     |
| 33   | 20        | 7      | <b>FERGIE</b><br>FERGIE<br>THE DULCETH (IMP)                                                  | 1             | 1              | The Dulceth                         | 1     |
| 34   | 29        | 13     | <b>KENNY G</b><br>KENNY G<br>RHYTHM & ROMANCE (IMP)                                           | 1             | 1              | Rhythm & Romance                    | 1     |
| 35   | 28        | 30     | <b>CARRIE UNDERWOOD</b><br>CARRIE UNDERWOOD<br>CARNIVAL RIDE (IMP)                            | 1             | 1              | Carnival Ride                       | 1     |
| 36   | 45        | 35     | <b>THE DREAM</b><br>THE DREAM<br>LOVE HATE (IMP)                                              | 1             | 1              | Love Hate                           | 1     |
| 37   | 15        | 108    | <b>CELINE DION</b><br>CELINE DION<br>TAKING CHANCES (IMP)                                     | 1             | 1              | Taking Chances                      | 1     |
| 38   | 46        | 38     | <b>RHIANNA</b><br>RHIANNA<br>GOOD GIRL GONE BAD (IMP)                                         | 1             | 1              | Good Girl Gone Bad                  | 1     |
| 39   | 43        | 43     | <b>ONEREPUBLIC</b><br>ONEREPUBLIC<br>DREAMING OUT LOUD (IMP)                                  | 1             | 1              | Dreaming Out Loud                   | 1     |
| 40   | 34        | 34     | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS<br>WOW GOSPEL 2008 (IMP)                            | 1             | 1              | WOW Gospel 2008                     | 1     |
| 41   | 53        | 47     | <b>LINKIN PARK</b><br>LINKIN PARK<br>MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT (IMP)                                | 1             | 1              | Minutes To Midnight                 | 1     |
| 42   | 36        | 31     | <b>RASCAL FLATTS</b><br>RASCAL FLATTS<br>STILL FEELS GOOD (IMP)                               | 1             | 1              | Still Feels Good                    | 1     |
| 43   | NEW       | 1      | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS<br>RADIO JAMME JAM (IMP)                            | 1             | 1              | Radio Jammie Jam                    | 1     |
| 44   | NEW       | 1      | <b>SECONDHAND SERENADE</b><br>SECONDHAND SERENADE<br>A TWIL IN MY STORY (IMP)                 | 1             | 1              | A Twil In My Story                  | 1     |
| 45   | 47        | 47     | <b>BUCKCHERRY</b><br>BUCKCHERRY<br>LIVE THROUGH THIS (IMP)                                    | 1             | 1              | Live Through This                   | 1     |
| 46   | 54        | 50     | <b>PARAMORE</b><br>PARAMORE<br>RIOT! (IMP)                                                    | 1             | 1              | Riot!                               | 1     |
| 47   | 56        | 56     | <b>SCOLIA BOY TELLEM</b><br>SCOLIA BOY TELLEM<br>sou(s)tellem.com (IMP)                       | 1             | 1              | sou(s)tellem.com                    | 1     |
| 48   | 44        | 120    | <b>NICKELBACK</b><br>NICKELBACK<br>ALL THE RIGHT REASONS (IMP)                                | 1             | 1              | All The Right Reasons               |       |



The trio guest-starred on Fox's "Don't Forget the Lyrics" last week. Album is up 157%. Act re-enters Top Ten Catalog at



At No. 44 with 16,000 start, Secondhand Serenade easily blows past its previous biggest week (5,000); previous album "Analog," which peaked at No. 214, last year.

After 125 weeks it has yet to leave the top. Last album to match the feat was Shania Twain's "Come On Over," which hit 129 weeks.

[illegible]

**THE Billboard 200** MAR 8 2008

| Rank | Artist                                                               | Title                                              |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 101  | JILL SCOTT<br>(OFFSHORE & HANOVER / DISTRIBUTION LABEL, PHOENIX)     | The Real Thing: Words And Sounds Vol. 3            |
| 102  | BRAD PAISLEY<br>(MONUMENT RECORDS / MONUMENT, LOS ANGELES, 10-28-90) | 5th Gear                                           |
| 103  | CHRISTETTE MICHELLE<br>(J&R MUSIC / J&R, LOS ANGELES, 10-28-90)      | I Am                                               |
| 104  | THE MARS VOLTA<br>(GEMINI RECORDS / GEMINI, LOS ANGELES, 11-13-90)   | The Bedlam In Gethse                               |
| 105  | CAMILA<br>(MONUMENT RECORDS / MONUMENT, LOS ANGELES, 11-13-90)       | Tudo Cambio                                        |
| 106  | DANE COOK<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)               | Live Through This                                  |
| 107  | ROBBY ATKINS<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)            | It's About You                                     |
| 108  | THE RAVEONETTES<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)         | Let's Get Lost                                     |
| 109  | FLEX<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)                    | To Overturn                                        |
| 110  | FLYLEAF<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)                 | Flyleaf                                            |
| 111  | FUDDLE OF MUDD<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)          | Famous                                             |
| 112  | JOHN MAVER<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)              | Continuum                                          |
| 113  | REYONCE<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)                 | 8 Day                                              |
| 114  | BOW WOW & GRANDSON<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)      | Face Off                                           |
| 115  | GEORGE STRAIT<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)           | 22 More Miles                                      |
| 116  | PASTOR TROY<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)             | Adaptive Adjuster                                  |
| 117  | VARIOUS ARTISTS<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)         | WOW Hits 2000                                      |
| 118  | KATE NASH<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)               | Made Of Bricks                                     |
| 119  | MARCO ANTONIO SOLIS<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)     | La Mejor... Coleccion                              |
| 120  | LIFESHOE<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)                | Who We Are                                         |
| 121  | SIXX A.M.<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)               | The Heroin Diaries Soundtrack                      |
| 122  | VICENTE FERNANDEZ<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)       | Pera Siempre                                       |
| 123  | NATALIE GRANT<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)           | Relentless                                         |
| 124  | BOR JOVI<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)                | Lost Highway                                       |
| 125  | AVENGED SEVENFOLD<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)       | Avenged Sevenfold                                  |
| 126  | GODSMACK<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)                | Good Times, Bad Times, Ten Years Of Godsmack       |
| 127  | THE BEATLES<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)             | Love                                               |
| 128  | PLUS<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)                    | The Real Testament                                 |
| 129  | BOYS LIKE GIRLS<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)         | Boys Like Girls                                    |
| 130  | JOSH TURNER<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)             | Everything Is Fine                                 |
| 131  | KINGDOM OF SORROW<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)       | Kingdom Of Sorrow                                  |
| 132  | SOUNDTRACK<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)              | Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street     |
| 133  | CAT POWER<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)               | Some People Have Real Problems                     |
| 134  | ANTONIO SANDOZ<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)          | Hairspire                                          |
| 135  | TIM MCGRAW<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)              | Let It Go                                          |
| 136  | VARIOUS ARTISTS<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)         | Ultra-Dance 99                                     |
| 137  | DRAMA<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)                   | Gangsta Grillz: The Album                          |
| 138  | MIRANDA LAMBERT<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)         | Crazy Ex-Girlfriend                                |
| 139  | RAY DAVIES<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)              | Working Men's Cafe                                 |
| 140  | LEDISI<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)                  | Lost & Found                                       |
| 141  | AVENTURA<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)                | Kings Of Bechale: Sold Out At Midson Square Garden |
| 142  | 50 CENT<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)                 | Curtis                                             |
| 143  | FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90) | The Way Of The Fist                                |
| 144  | CHUCK WICKS<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)             | Starting Now                                       |
| 145  | SPARK SPINROSTEN<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)        | Magic                                              |
| 146  | WISIN & YANDEI<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)          | Wisin Y Yandei: Los Extraterrestes                 |
| 147  | VARIOUS ARTISTS<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)         | Songs 4 Worship: Country                           |
| 148  | JOHN GROSAN<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)             | Aerols                                             |
| 149  | SHELBY LYNN<br>(COLUMBIA / COLUMBIA, NEW YORK, 11-13-90)             | Just A Little Love: Inspired By Dusty Springfield  |



Act's monthlong U.S. tour begins Feb. 25 in San Diego. Will play "Lethargy" in late March.

Pink is one of the acts covered on "Klutz Bop B" (No. 4). It's the seventh consecutive title in the regular "Klutz Bop" line to debut in the top 50 of the *Billboard* 200.



Critically praised  
set from  
Wisconsin native  
Justin Vernon  
(aka Bon Iver)  
also bows at No.  
4 on Top  
Heatseekers  
with 4,000 sold

At No. 131, act  
boasts member  
of Hainbreed  
and Down.  
Debit set sells  
6,000 and land  
at No. 2 on Top  
Hutbrooks.



Rock act scores its best sales week yet as sale pricing at Best Buy (\$1.99) goes; album hits 5,000 (up 45%)

| DATE | LAST WEEK | WEEKS ON CHART | ARTIST                | ALBUM                                                        | GENRE     | PEAK POSITION | WEEKS ON CHART | THIRTY |
|------|-----------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|--------|
| 101  | 121       | 121            | CHRIS BOTTI           | WORTHY & BOLD: A DISCOUNT LABEL (PHO) [PHO]                  | Rock      | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 102  | 131       | 131            | AVRIL LAVIGNE         | The Best Damn Thing                                          | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 103  | 131       | 131            | K-PAZ DE LA SIERRA    | Capaz De Todo Por Ti                                         | Latin     | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 104  | 154       | 154            | ANNE MURRAY           | Duets: Friends & Legends                                     | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 105  | 124       | 124            | LOS OKAGAKI           | LOS OKAGAKI                                                  | Latin     | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 106  | 141       | 141            | THE OKAGAKI           | THE OKAGAKI                                                  | Latin     | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 107  | 141       | 141            | BILLY RAY CYRUS       | Home At Last                                                 | Country   | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 108  | 131       | 131            | CHRIS TOMLIN          | See The Morning                                              | Country   | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 109  | 175       | 175            | VARIOUS ARTISTS       | The Grammy's 50th Anniversary Collection                     | Various   | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 110  | 156       | 156            | EDDIE VEDDER          | Into The Wild (Soundtrack)                                   | Rock      | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 111  | 110       | 110            | CONJUNTO PRIMAVERA    | Que Ganas De Volver                                          | Latin     | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 112  | 140       | 140            | VARIOUS ARTISTS       | Soulsville, U.S.A.: Sex Classics 1965-1973                   | Various   | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 113  | 140       | 140            | PINK                  | I'm Not Dead                                                 | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 114  | 150       | 150            | WYCLEF JEAN           | Carnival Vol. 1: Memories Of An Immigrant                    | Latin     | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 115  | 150       | 150            | VICENTE FERNANDEZ     | Historia De Un Ideal                                         | Latin     | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 116  | 150       | 150            | JAMES BLUNT           | All The Lost Souls                                           | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 117  | 178       | 178            | BREAKING BENJAMIN     | Phobias                                                      | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 118  | 150       | 150            | DJ KRIBBLE            | Total Dance 2008                                             | Dance     | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 119  | 174       | 174            | GUCCI MANE            | Back To The Trenches                                         | Hip-Hop   | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 120  | 140       | 140            | THE KILLERS           | Samuel                                                       | Rock      | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 121  | 78        | 78             | WIDESPREAD PANIC      | Free Somewhere                                               | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 122  | 154       | 154            | AKON                  | Konvicted                                                    | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 123  | 170       | 170            | TREY SONGZ            | Try Day                                                      | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 124  | 150       | 150            | HELLYEAM              | HellYeam                                                     | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 125  | 140       | 140            | SKILLFUL              | Comelose                                                     | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 126  | 154       | 154            | PASSION WORSHIP BAND  | Passion: God Of This City                                    | Christian | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 127  | 170       | 170            | VARIOUS ARTISTS       | NOW Party Hits!                                              | Various   | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 128  | 150       | 150            | SCARFACE              | Made                                                         | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 129  | 150       | 150            | WILLIE NELSON         | Moment Of Forever                                            | Country   | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 130  | 151       | 151            | JASON ALDEAN          | Relentless                                                   | Country   | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 131  | 160       | 160            | GOO GOO DOLLS         | Greatest Hits Volume One: The Singles                        | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 132  | 150       | 150            | BON IVER              | For Emma, Forever Ago                                        | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 133  | 150       | 150            | DRAGONFORCE           | Inhuman Rampage                                              | Rock      | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 134  | 150       | 150            | JUANES                | La Vida... Ex Un Retico                                      | Latin     | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 135  | 150       | 150            | VARIOUS ARTISTS       | High School Musical: Be Mine (EP)                            | Various   | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 136  | 150       | 150            | VARIOUS ARTISTS       | Bachata # 1s                                                 | Various   | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 137  | 150       | 150            | A FINE FRENZY         | One Call In The Sea                                          | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 138  | 171       | 171            | VARIOUS ARTISTS       | How Great Thou Art: Gospel Favorites From The Grand Ole Opry | Various   | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 139  | 171       | 171            | STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN | This Moment                                                  | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 140  | 174       | 174            | SERJ TANKIAN          | Elect The Dead                                               | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 141  | 150       | 150            | ZPAC                  | The Best Of ZPac - Part 1: Thug                              | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 142  | 150       | 150            | PAUL THORN            | A Long Way From Tupelo                                       | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 143  | 174       | 174            | VARIOUS ARTISTS       | High School Musical 2: Non-Stop Dance Party                  | Various   | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 144  | 150       | 150            | SCOUND DOGS           | Enchanted                                                    | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 145  | 150       | 150            | JOHN LEGEND           | Once Again                                                   | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 146  | 150       | 150            | CANTON JONES          | Kingdom Business                                             | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 147  | 150       | 150            | THE WHITE STRIPES     | icky Thump                                                   | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 148  | 150       | 150            | POINT OF GRACE        | How You Live                                                 | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 149  | 150       | 150            | T.J.                  | T.J. Vs T.J.P.                                               | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 150  | 151       | 151            | GARY LOURIS           | Vegetables                                                   | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |
| 151  | 151       | 151            | VAN MORRISON          | Shit On Top - The Greatest Hits                              | Pop       | 1             | 1              | 1      |

# THE BILLBOARD HOT 100

## THE BILLBOARD HOT 100

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | PEAK | TITLE                                                                                    | ARTIST      | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1    | 1         | 1    | <b>LOW</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                                | Chris Brown | 1              |
| 2    | 2         | 2    | <b>WITH YOU</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                           | Chris Brown | 2              |
| 3    | 3         | 3    | <b>STOP THE MUSIC</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                     | Chris Brown | 3              |
| 4    | 4         | 4    | <b>LOVE SONG</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                          | Chris Brown | 4              |
| 5    | 5         | 5    | <b>NO ONE</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                             | Chris Brown | 5              |
| 6    | 6         | 6    | <b>APOLONE</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                            | Chris Brown | 6              |
| 7    | 7         | 7    | <b>SENSUAL SEDUCTION</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                  | Chris Brown | 7              |
| 8    | 8         | 8    | <b>TAKE YOU THERE</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                     | Chris Brown | 8              |
| 9    | 9         | 9    | <b>INDEPENDENT</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                        | Chris Brown | 9              |
| 10   | 10        | 10   | <b>SORRY</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                              | Chris Brown | 10             |
| 11   | 11        | 11   | <b>SEE YOU AGAIN</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                      | Chris Brown | 11             |
| 12   | 12        | 12   | <b>SUPERSTAR</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                          | Chris Brown | 12             |
| 13   | 13        | 13   | <b>LOVE SONG</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                          | Chris Brown | 13             |
| 14   | 14        | 14   | <b>LINE UP, I'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)   | Chris Brown | 14             |
| 15   | 15        | 15   | <b>SHADOW</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                             | Chris Brown | 15             |
| 16   | 16        | 16   | <b>TEARDROPS ON MY GUITAR</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)             | Chris Brown | 16             |
| 17   | 17        | 17   | <b>CLUMBY</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                             | Chris Brown | 17             |
| 18   | 18        | 18   | <b>SEXY CAN I</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                         | Chris Brown | 18             |
| 19   | 19        | 19   | <b>SUFFICIENT</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                         | Chris Brown | 19             |
| 20   | 20        | 20   | <b>TATTOO</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                             | Chris Brown | 20             |
| 21   | 21        | 21   | <b>BUBBLY</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                             | Chris Brown | 21             |
| 22   | 22        | 22   | <b>PARALYZER</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                          | Chris Brown | 22             |
| 23   | 23        | 23   | <b>SWEETEST GIRL (DOLLAR BILL)</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)        | Chris Brown | 23             |
| 24   | 24        | 24   | <b>I REMEMBER</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                         | Chris Brown | 24             |
| 25   | 25        | 25   | <b>WHERE DO YOU TAKE ME IN THE EYES</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)   | Chris Brown | 25             |
| 26   | 26        | 26   | <b>STOP AND STARE</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                     | Chris Brown | 26             |
| 27   | 27        | 27   | <b>JUST FINE</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                          | Chris Brown | 27             |
| 28   | 28        | 28   | <b>ELEVATOR</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                           | Chris Brown | 28             |
| 29   | 29        | 29   | <b>KISS KISS</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                          | Chris Brown | 29             |
| 30   | 30        | 30   | <b>HYMNOTIZED</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                         | Chris Brown | 30             |
| 31   | 31        | 31   | <b>LOVE LIKE THIS</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                     | Chris Brown | 31             |
| 32   | 32        | 32   | <b>CAN'T HELP BUT WAIT</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                | Chris Brown | 32             |
| 33   | 33        | 33   | <b>TOUCH MY BODY</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                      | Chris Brown | 33             |
| 34   | 34        | 34   | <b>OUR SONG</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                           | Chris Brown | 34             |
| 35   | 35        | 35   | <b>FALSETTO</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                           | Chris Brown | 35             |
| 36   | 36        | 36   | <b>CRYING OUT FOR ME</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                  | Chris Brown | 36             |
| 37   | 37        | 37   | <b>FLASHING LIGHTS</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                    | Chris Brown | 37             |
| 38   | 38        | 38   | <b>PIECE OF ME</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                        | Chris Brown | 38             |
| 39   | 39        | 39   | <b>INTO THE NIGHT</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                     | Chris Brown | 39             |
| 40   | 40        | 40   | <b>BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                | Chris Brown | 40             |
| 41   | 41        | 41   | <b>KEY ONE</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                            | Chris Brown | 41             |
| 42   | 42        | 42   | <b>READY, SET, DON'T GO</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)               | Chris Brown | 42             |
| 43   | 43        | 43   | <b>I WON'T TELL</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                       | Chris Brown | 43             |
| 44   | 44        | 44   | <b>CLEANING THIS GUN (COME ON IN BOY)</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain) | Chris Brown | 44             |
| 45   | 45        | 45   | <b>CALLING ME</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                         | Chris Brown | 45             |
| 46   | 46        | 46   | <b>FEELS LIKE TONIGHT</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                 | Chris Brown | 46             |
| 47   | 47        | 47   | <b>HATE THAT I LOVE YOU</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)               | Chris Brown | 47             |
| 48   | 48        | 48   | <b>NEW SOUL</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                           | Chris Brown | 48             |
| 49   | 49        | 49   | <b>WATCHING AIRPLANES</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                 | Chris Brown | 49             |
| 50   | 50        | 50   | <b>LOVE IN THE CLUB (DANCE REMIX)</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)     | Chris Brown | 50             |
| 51   | 51        | 51   | <b>LETTER TO ME</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                       | Chris Brown | 51             |
| 52   | 52        | 52   | <b>FEEDBACK</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                           | Chris Brown | 52             |
| 53   | 53        | 53   | <b>I SAW GOD TODAY</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                    | Chris Brown | 53             |
| 54   | 54        | 54   | <b>SHITWORK</b><br>I Wanna Love You (feat. Lil Wayne & T-Pain)                           | Chris Brown | 54             |

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | PEAK | TITLE                                   | ARTIST             | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1    | 1         | 1    | <b>FLORIDA'S 'ELEVATOR' RISES FAST</b>  | Flo Rida           | 1              |
| 2    | 2         | 2    | <b>SMALL TOWN SOUTHERN MAN</b>          | Jason Aldean       | 2              |
| 3    | 3         | 3    | <b>WON'T GO HOME WITHOUT YOU</b>        | Melissa Etheridge  | 3              |
| 4    | 4         | 4    | <b>WHAT HURTS THE MOST</b>              | Timbaland          | 4              |
| 5    | 5         | 5    | <b>THE ANTHEM</b>                       | Timbaland          | 5              |
| 6    | 6         | 6    | <b>STEALING CINDELLA</b>                | Chuck Willis       | 6              |
| 7    | 7         | 7    | <b>BLEEDING LOVE</b>                    | Leona Lewis        | 7              |
| 8    | 8         | 8    | <b>CHANGING LING</b>                    | Missy Elliott      | 8              |
| 9    | 9         | 9    | <b>POP BOTTLES</b>                      | Brandy             | 9              |
| 10   | 10        | 10   | <b>WHAT KINDA GONE</b>                  | Charmé             | 10             |
| 11   | 11        | 11   | <b>KILLA</b>                            | Charmé             | 11             |
| 12   | 12        | 12   | <b>INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER</b>          | Craig Morgan       | 12             |
| 13   | 13        | 13   | <b>WHATEVER IT TAKES</b>                | Lifesupport        | 13             |
| 14   | 14        | 14   | <b>HERO HEROINE</b>                     | Boyz Like Girls    | 14             |
| 15   | 15        | 15   | <b>IS THERE A MAN IN THE WHITE SAIL</b> | Ingrid Michaelson  | 15             |
| 16   | 16        | 16   | <b>WHAT I WANT</b>                      | Timbaland          | 16             |
| 17   | 17        | 17   | <b>STAY</b>                             | Superman           | 17             |
| 18   | 18        | 18   | <b>YOU'RE GONNA MISS THIS</b>           | Trace Adkins       | 18             |
| 19   | 19        | 19   | <b>CRUSHED CRUSH</b>                    | Parmora            | 19             |
| 20   | 20        | 20   | <b>SAY</b>                              | John Mayer         | 20             |
| 21   | 21        | 21   | <b>UMMA DOO</b>                         | Rocko              | 21             |
| 22   | 22        | 22   | <b>WINNER AT A LOSING GAME</b>          | Rascal Flatts      | 22             |
| 23   | 23        | 23   | <b>LAUGHED UNTIL WE CRIED</b>           | Jason Aldean       | 23             |
| 24   | 24        | 24   | <b>REALIZE</b>                          | Colbie Corbett     | 24             |
| 25   | 25        | 25   | <b>NEVER</b>                            | Jahmari            | 25             |
| 26   | 26        | 26   | <b>LIKE WHOA</b>                        | Jahmari            | 26             |
| 27   | 27        | 27   | <b>PICTURE TO BURN</b>                  | Taylor Swift       | 27             |
| 28   | 28        | 28   | <b>THE SOT IT</b>                       | 2 Pistols          | 28             |
| 29   | 29        | 29   | <b>GET BUCKIN' IN HERE</b>              | Shedding           | 29             |
| 30   | 30        | 30   | <b>GOD MUST BE BUSY</b>                 | Brooks & Dunn      | 30             |
| 31   | 31        | 31   | <b>PSYCHO</b>                           | Puddle of Mudd     | 31             |
| 32   | 32        | 32   | <b>THE BOSS</b>                         | Rick Ross          | 32             |
| 33   | 33        | 33   | <b>NINE IN THE AFTERNOON</b>            | Panic At The Disco | 33             |
| 34   | 34        | 34   | <b>IF I HAD EYES</b>                    | Ed Sheeran         | 34             |
| 35   | 35        | 35   | <b>LONG ROAD TO RUIN</b>                | For Fighters       | 35             |
| 36   | 36        | 36   | <b>SHAWTY GET LOOSE</b>                 | Li Mame            | 36             |
| 37   | 37        | 37   | <b>JUST GOT STARTED LOVIN' U</b>        | James Otto         | 37             |
| 38   | 38        | 38   | <b>IT'S NOT MY TIME</b>                 | 3 Doors Down       | 38             |
| 39   | 39        | 39   | <b>SHAKE YOUR POMP POM</b>              | Missy Elliott      | 39             |
| 40   | 40        | 40   | <b>IT'S GOOD TO BE US</b>               | Bucky Covington    | 40             |
| 41   | 41        | 41   | <b>LOVE IS A BEAUTIFUL THING</b>        | Phil Spector       | 41             |
| 42   | 42        | 42   | <b>LOVE IS FREE</b>                     | Sheryl Crow        | 42             |
| 43   | 43        | 43   | <b>TE QUERO</b>                         | Flex               | 43             |
| 44   | 44        | 44   | <b>ROCK STAR</b>                        | Hannah Montana     | 44             |

Country legend George Strait takes the list's top debut (No. 54) and beats the best single week of his career as track moves 25,000 downloads.

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | PEAK | TITLE                                   | ARTIST             | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1    | 1         | 1    | <b>FLORIDA'S 'ELEVATOR' RISES FAST</b>  | Flo Rida           | 1              |
| 2    | 2         | 2    | <b>SMALL TOWN SOUTHERN MAN</b>          | Jason Aldean       | 2              |
| 3    | 3         | 3    | <b>WON'T GO HOME WITHOUT YOU</b>        | Melissa Etheridge  | 3              |
| 4    | 4         | 4    | <b>WHAT HURTS THE MOST</b>              | Timbaland          | 4              |
| 5    | 5         | 5    | <b>THE ANTHEM</b>                       | Timbaland          | 5              |
| 6    | 6         | 6    | <b>STEALING CINDELLA</b>                | Chuck Willis       | 6              |
| 7    | 7         | 7    | <b>BLEEDING LOVE</b>                    | Leona Lewis        | 7              |
| 8    | 8         | 8    | <b>CHANGING LING</b>                    | Missy Elliott      | 8              |
| 9    | 9         | 9    | <b>POP BOTTLES</b>                      | Brandy             | 9              |
| 10   | 10        | 10   | <b>WHAT KINDA GONE</b>                  | Charmé             | 10             |
| 11   | 11        | 11   | <b>KILLA</b>                            | Charmé             | 11             |
| 12   | 12        | 12   | <b>INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER</b>          | Craig Morgan       | 12             |
| 13   | 13        | 13   | <b>WHATEVER IT TAKES</b>                | Lifesupport        | 13             |
| 14   | 14        | 14   | <b>HERO HEROINE</b>                     | Boyz Like Girls    | 14             |
| 15   | 15        | 15   | <b>IS THERE A MAN IN THE WHITE SAIL</b> | Ingrid Michaelson  | 15             |
| 16   | 16        | 16   | <b>WHAT I WANT</b>                      | Timbaland          | 16             |
| 17   | 17        | 17   | <b>STAY</b>                             | Superman           | 17             |
| 18   | 18        | 18   | <b>YOU'RE GONNA MISS THIS</b>           | Trace Adkins       | 18             |
| 19   | 19        | 19   | <b>CRUSHED CRUSH</b>                    | Parmora            | 19             |
| 20   | 20        | 20   | <b>SAY</b>                              | John Mayer         | 20             |
| 21   | 21        | 21   | <b>UMMA DOO</b>                         | Rocko              | 21             |
| 22   | 22        | 22   | <b>WINNER AT A LOSING GAME</b>          | Rascal Flatts      | 22             |
| 23   | 23        | 23   | <b>LAUGHED UNTIL WE CRIED</b>           | Jason Aldean       | 23             |
| 24   | 24        | 24   | <b>REALIZE</b>                          | Colbie Corbett     | 24             |
| 25   | 25        | 25   | <b>NEVER</b>                            | Jahmari            | 25             |
| 26   | 26        | 26   | <b>LIKE WHOA</b>                        | Jahmari            | 26             |
| 27   | 27        | 27   | <b>PICTURE TO BURN</b>                  | Taylor Swift       | 27             |
| 28   | 28        | 28   | <b>THE SOT IT</b>                       | 2 Pistols          | 28             |
| 29   | 29        | 29   | <b>GET BUCKIN' IN HERE</b>              | Shedding           | 29             |
| 30   | 30        | 30   | <b>GOD MUST BE BUSY</b>                 | Brooks & Dunn      | 30             |
| 31   | 31        | 31   | <b>PSYCHO</b>                           | Puddle of Mudd     | 31             |
| 32   | 32        | 32   | <b>THE BOSS</b>                         | Rick Ross          | 32             |
| 33   | 33        | 33   | <b>NINE IN THE AFTERNOON</b>            | Panic At The Disco | 33             |
| 34   | 34        | 34   | <b>IF I HAD EYES</b>                    | Ed Sheeran         | 34             |
| 35   | 35        | 35   | <b>LONG ROAD TO RUIN</b>                | For Fighters       | 35             |
| 36   | 36        | 36   | <b>SHAWTY GET LOOSE</b>                 | Li Mame            | 36             |
| 37   | 37        | 37   | <b>JUST GOT STARTED LOVIN' U</b>        | James Otto         | 37             |
| 38   | 38        | 38   | <b>IT'S NOT MY TIME</b>                 | 3 Doors Down       | 38             |
| 39   | 39        | 39   | <b>SHAKE YOUR POMP POM</b>              | Missy Elliott      | 39             |
| 40   | 40        | 40   | <b>IT'S GOOD TO BE US</b>               | Bucky Covington    | 40             |
| 41   | 41        | 41   | <b>LOVE IS A BEAUTIFUL THING</b>        | Phil Spector       | 41             |
| 42   | 42        | 42   | <b>LOVE IS FREE</b>                     | Sheryl Crow        | 42             |
| 43   | 43        | 43   | <b>TE QUERO</b>                         | Flex               | 43             |
| 44   | 44        | 44   | <b>ROCK STAR</b>                        | Hannah Montana     | 44             |

Country legend George Strait takes the list's top debut (No. 54) and beats the best single week of his career as track moves 25,000 downloads.

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POP **Billboard**

| WEEK | DATE | ARTIST                       | TITLE                        | GENRE | WEEKS ON CHART | PEAK POSITION |
|------|------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|----------------|---------------|
| 1    | 1/7  | LOW                          | LOW                          | POP   | 1              | 1             |
| 2    | 1/14 | THE NOTORIOUS B.I.G.         | NO STOP THE MUSIC            | R&B   | 2              | 1             |
| 3    | 1/21 | WITH YOU                     | WITH YOU                     | POP   | 3              | 1             |
| 4    | 1/28 | LOVE SONG                    | LOVE SONG                    | POP   | 4              | 1             |
| 5    | 2/4  | TAKE YOU THERE               | TAKE YOU THERE               | POP   | 5              | 1             |
| 6    | 2/11 | APOLGIZE                     | APOLGIZE                     | POP   | 6              | 1             |
| 7    | 2/18 | NO AIR                       | NO AIR                       | POP   | 7              | 1             |
| 8    | 2/25 | SEE YOU AGAIN                | SEE YOU AGAIN                | POP   | 8              | 1             |
| 9    | 3/4  | SORRY                        | SORRY                        | POP   | 9              | 1             |
| 10   | 3/11 | NO ONE                       | NO ONE                       | POP   | 10             | 1             |
| 11   | 3/18 | CLEWIST                      | CLEWIST                      | POP   | 11             | 1             |
| 12   | 3/25 | SHADOW OF THE DAY            | SHADOW OF THE DAY            | POP   | 12             | 1             |
| 13   | 4/1  | TEAR DROP ON MY GITAR        | TEAR DROP ON MY GITAR        | POP   | 13             | 1             |
| 14   | 4/8  | TATTOO                       | TATTOO                       | POP   | 14             | 1             |
| 15   | 4/15 | STOP AND START               | STOP AND START               | POP   | 15             | 1             |
| 16   | 4/22 | PARALYZER                    | PARALYZER                    | POP   | 16             | 1             |
| 17   | 4/29 | WHEN YOU LOOK ME IN THE EYES | WHEN YOU LOOK ME IN THE EYES | POP   | 17             | 1             |
| 18   | 5/6  | SEXUAL SEDUCTION             | SEXUAL SEDUCTION             | POP   | 18             | 1             |
| 19   | 5/13 | KISS KISS                    | KISS KISS                    | POP   | 19             | 1             |
| 20   | 5/20 | LOVE LIKE THIS               | LOVE LIKE THIS               | POP   | 20             | 1             |
| 21   | 5/27 | CALABRIA 2000                | CALABRIA 2000                | POP   | 21             | 1             |
| 22   | 6/3  | MISERY BUSINESS              | MISERY BUSINESS              | POP   | 22             | 1             |
| 23   | 6/10 | PIECE OF ME                  | PIECE OF ME                  | POP   | 23             | 1             |

**POP 100**  
**AIRPLAY**

| DATE | LAST | TITLE                          | ARTIST                       | TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |
|------|------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1    | 1    | <b>LOW</b>                     | <b>LOW</b>                   | <b>LOW</b>               |
| 2    | 2    | THESE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                              |                          |
| 3    | 3    | WITH YOU                       | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 4    | 4    | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL   |                              |                          |
| 5    | 5    | DON'T STOP THE MUSIC           | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 6    | 6    | LOVE SONG                      | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 7    | 7    | TAKE YOU THERE                 | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 8    | 8    | APPOLOGIZE                     | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 9    | 9    | CLUMSY                         | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 10   | 10   | NO ONE                         | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 11   | 11   | NO AIR                         | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 12   | 12   | SWEETEST GIRL WITH CURVE BONES | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 13   | 13   | SWEETEST GIRL (DOLLAR BILL)    | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 14   | 14   | TATTOO                         | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 15   | 15   | SHADOW OF THE DAY              | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 16   | 16   | PARALYZER                      | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 17   | 17   | STOP AND STARE                 | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 18   | 18   | HATE THAT I LOVE YOU           | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 19   | 19   | MISERY BUSINES                 | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 20   | 20   | THE WAY I ARE                  | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 21   | 21   | TOUCH MY BODY                  | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 22   | 22   | SENSUAL SEDUCTION              | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 23   | 23   | THE WAY I ARE                  | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 24   | 24   | TOUCH MY BODY                  | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |
| 25   | 25   | SENSUAL SEDUCTION              | THE TOPPERS' PROMOTION LABEL |                          |

**HOT SINGLES SALES**

| TIME<br>LEFT | WHEEL<br>LAPSE | TITLE<br>ARTIST (IMPORT PROMOTION LABEL)                                                                                                 |
|--------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10           | 1              |  <b>CONQUEST</b><br>THE WHITE STRIPES (JAPANESE IMPORT) |
| 9            | 2              | <b>ABE</b>                                                                                                                               |
| 8            | 3              | <b>WHAT TIME IS IT</b><br>JOHN COCHRAN (MCA) (HALL & OATES)                                                                              |
| 7            | 4              | <b>THEIR RIGHT HERE</b><br>TIMBAL SHAM (CONQUEST) (HOF)                                                                                  |
| 6            | 5              | <b>FOUNDATIONS</b><br>THE BEATLES (CAPITOL) (HOF)                                                                                        |
| 5            | 6              | <b>THE MARCH</b><br>THE BEATLES (CAPITOL) (HOF)                                                                                          |
| 4            | 7              | <b>HOLY TREES</b>                                                                                                                        |
| 3            | 8              | <b>DOWN A WHATEVER</b><br>LINDSEY LOHAN (CAPITOL) (HOF)                                                                                  |
| 2            | 9              | <b>WE SEE SOMETHING</b><br>A&J MEGARELL & THE MEGARELLS (INTERNATIONAL)                                                                  |
| 1            | 10             | <b>INSIDE OUT</b><br>THE BEATLES (CAPITOL) (HOF)                                                                                         |
|              | 11             | <b>I GET IT IN</b><br>THE BEATLES (CAPITOL) (HOF)                                                                                        |
|              | 12             | <b>GET BACK IN HERE</b><br>A&J MEGARELL & THE MEGARELLS (INTERNATIONAL)                                                                  |
|              | 13             | <b>MUSICALS HAVE RETURNED</b><br>THE BEATLES (CAPITOL) (HOF)                                                                             |
|              | 14             | <b>WHAT HURTS THE MOST</b>                                                                                                               |
|              | 15             | <b>ONLY THE WORLD</b>                                                                                                                    |
|              | 16             | <b>KOOL AID</b>                                                                                                                          |
|              | 17             | <b>BLACK FLY</b> (HOF)                                                                                                                   |
|              | 18             | <b>BLACK FLY</b> (HOF)                                                                                                                   |
|              | 19             | <b>BLACK FLY</b> (HOF)                                                                                                                   |
|              | 20             | <b>EXACTLY THE SAME</b><br>THE BEATLES (CAPITOL) (HOF)                                                                                   |
|              | 21             | <b>SIPPY TO THAI CHAI</b>                                                                                                                |
|              | 22             | <b>STRAIGHT TO VIDEO</b>                                                                                                                 |
|              | 23             | <b>DRAMA QUEEN</b><br>THE BEATLES (CAPITOL) (HOF)                                                                                        |
|              | 24             | <b>BEATLES REMAINS THE SAME</b><br>THE BEATLES (CAPITOL) (HOF)                                                                           |
|              | 25             | <b>LOW</b>                                                                                                                               |
|              | 26             | <b>BEAUTIFUL LIAR</b><br>THE BEATLES (CAPITOL) (HOF)                                                                                     |
|              | 27             | <b>SWAGA</b>                                                                                                                             |

## MUSIC VIDEO

|    |    | TITLE                                                                                                                                                                             | Principal Performer(s)                            |
|----|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 1  |  <b>LIVE IN LAS VEGAS: A NEW DAY</b><br>BRITNEY SPEARS MUSIC VIDEO LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) | Celine Dion                                       |
| 2  | 14 | <b>THE BEYONCÉ EXPERIENCE: LIVE</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                         | Beyoncé                                           |
| 3  | 13 | <b>LIVE AFTER DEATH</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                                     | Iron Maiden                                       |
| 4  | 3  | <b>BACK TO BASICS: LIVE AND DOWN UNDER</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                  | Christina Aguilera                                |
| 5  | 14 | <b>CROSSROADS GUITAR FESTIVAL 2007</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                      | Eric Clapton                                      |
| 6  | 15 | <b>ORAL FIXATION TOUR</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                                   | Shakira                                           |
| 7  | 6  | <b>LIVE IN PARIS +</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                                      | Jeff Spill                                        |
| 8  | 7  | <b>A CAMPFIRE HOMECOMING</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                                | Bill & Gloria Gartner With The Homecoming Friends |
| 9  | 10 | <b>FAREWELL TOUR FROM MELBOURNE</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                         | Eagles                                            |
| 10 | 3  | <b>HOMECOMING PICNIC</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                                    | Bill & Gloria Gartner With The Homecoming Friends |
| 11 | 11 | <b>MTV UNPLUGGED IN NEW YORK</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                            | Nirvana                                           |
| 12 | 14 | <b>THE ULTIMATE VIDEO COLLECTION</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                        | Ween                                              |
| 13 | 21 | <b>NUMBER ONE</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                                           | Michael Jackson                                   |
| 14 | 22 | <b>VICARIOUS</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                                            | Toot                                              |
| 15 | 22 | <b>LIVE ZEPPULIN</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                                        | Led Zeppelin                                      |
| 16 | 21 | <b>PLUG ME IN</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                                           | AC/DC                                             |
| 17 | 21 | <b>REMEMBER THAT NIGHT: LIVE AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                   | Dave Simons                                       |
| 18 | 23 | <b>PULSE</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                                                | Aria Rydell                                       |
| 19 | 24 | <b>WE ARE... THE LAURIE BENDER BAND</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                     | The Laurie Bender Band                            |
| 20 | 15 | <b>HELLO!</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                                                               | The Beatles                                       |
| 21 | 34 | <b>A NEW JOURNEY: LIVE AT SLANE CASTLE, IRELAND</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                         | Celtic Women                                      |
| 22 | 26 | <b>ELTON JO: LIVE AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                              | Elton John                                        |
| 23 | 16 | <b>FUTURES&amp;LOVESHOW: LIVE AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                  | Austin Timberlake                                 |
| 24 | 3  | <b>KISSGOUL: THE ULTIMATE KISS COLLECTION VOLUME 3: 1992-2000</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                           | Kiss                                              |
| 25 | 13 | <b>I TOLD YOU I WAS TROUBLE: LIVE IN THE CITY</b><br>LIVE DVD (110 MIN) (PG-13 NR) (114 MIN) (PG-13 NR)                                                                           | Amy Winehouse                                     |

[illegible]
**VIDEO MONITOR**

| THE<br>TOP<br>100 | ARTIST TITLE                                         | WEEKS<br>ON<br>CHART |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1                 | GLEN HANSARD & MARKETA ILOGOVA, <i>FALLING SLOWS</i> | 1                    |
| 2                 | SARAH BAREILLE, <i>UPPER HAND</i>                    | 1                    |
| 3                 | MARY J. BLIGE, <i>SOFT TOUCH</i>                     | 1                    |
| 4                 | AMY WINEHOUSE, <i>LOVE ANGEL MUSIC</i>               | 1                    |
| 5                 | ONE REPUBLIC, <i>WOTD AND BEARS</i>                  | 1                    |
| 6                 | BUCKCHERRY, <i>SHINY</i>                             | 1                    |
| 7                 | DAUGHTY, <i>HELL ON WHEELS</i>                       | 1                    |
| 8                 | RIHANNA, <i>DOWN I STEP THE MUSIC</i>                | 1                    |
| 9                 | MATCHBOX TWENTY, <i>THREE HARD TIMES</i>             | 1                    |
| 10                | MAHON 5, <i>WENT TO BED WITHOUT YOU</i>              | 1                    |
| 11                | ALAN JACKSON, <i>SMALL TOWN SOUTHERN MAN</i>         | 1                    |
| 12                | TMG McGRAW, <i>BEYOND THE</i>                        | 1                    |
| 13                | TRACY CHAPMAN, <i>EVERYBODY HAS SECRETS</i>          | 1                    |
| 14                | CARRIE UNDERWOOD, <i>ALL AMERICAN SILENCE</i>        | 1                    |
| 15                | BRAD PASKLEY, <i>LETTER IN ME</i>                    | 1                    |
| 16                | RLY RAY CYRUS, <i>WHEAT STRETCH</i>                  | 1                    |
| 17                | JASON ALDEAN, <i>LAMED WITH MY KNEE</i>              | 1                    |
| 18                | BRIT MORGAN, <i>INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER</i>          | 1                    |
| 19                | SUGARLAND, <i>STAR</i>                               | 1                    |
| 20                | PHIL VASSAR, <i>LOVE IS A BRIGHT THING</i>           | 1                    |
| 21                | PANIC AT THE DISCO, <i>RISE IN THE</i>               | 1                    |
| 22                | FOO FIGHTERS, <i>LEANS AGAIN TO YOUR</i>             | 1                    |
| 23                | PARAMORE, <i>UNDERWOOD</i>                           | 1                    |
| 24                | FLORIDA FEAT. TRAVIS, <i>UP</i>                      | 1                    |
| 25                | LUPE FIASCO FEAT. NATHAN SANTOS, <i>SUPERSTAR</i>    | 1                    |
| 26                | RIHANNA, <i>DOWN I STEP THE MUSIC</i>                | 1                    |
| 27                | THE WHITE STRIPES, <i>CONQUEST</i>                   | 1                    |
| 28                | BUCKCHERRY, <i>SHINY</i>                             | 1                    |
| 29                | RISE AGAINST, <i>THE DOOR LIES UNDER</i>             | 1                    |
| 30                | BOYS LIKE GIRLS, <i>BEYOND</i>                       | 1                    |

59 | Go to [www.billboard.biz](http://www.billboard.biz) for complete chart data

## TOP R&B/HIP-HOP ALBUMS

| WEEK | ARTIST             | ALBUM                                      | WEEKS ON CHART | PEAK POSITION |
|------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1    | MARY J. BLIGE      | Growing Pains                              | 1              | 1             |
| 2    | KEYSHIA COLE       | Just Like You                              | 1              | 1             |
| 3    | JAM JOHNS          | Harlem's American Gangster                 | 1              | 1             |
| 4    | ALICIA KEYS        | As I Am                                    | 1              | 1             |
| 5    | THE DREAM          | Love/Hate                                  | 1              | 1             |
| 6    | JAEHIM             | The Makings Of A Man                       | 1              | 1             |
| 7    | SOUNDTRACK         | Step Up 2: The Streets                     | 1              | 1             |
| 8    | CHRIS BROWN        | Exclusive                                  | 1              | 1             |
| 9    | WINA HOUSE         | Back To Black                              | 1              | 1             |
| 10   | LUPE FIASCO        | Lupe Fiasco's The Cool                     | 1              | 1             |
| 11   | RAHEEM DEVAUGHN    | Love Behind The Melody                     | 1              | 1             |
| 12   | JAY-Z              | American Gangster                          | 1              | 1             |
| 13   | J. HOLLAND         | Back Of My Lac                             | 1              | 1             |
| 14   | MARVIN SAPP        | Thirsty                                    | 1              | 1             |
| 15   | PASTOR TROY        | Attitude Adjuster                          | 1              | 1             |
| 16   | MARIO              | Go                                         | 1              | 1             |
| 17   | JILL SCOTT         | The Real Thing: Words And Sounds Vol. 3    | 1              | 1             |
| 18   | KANYE WEST         | Graduation                                 | 1              | 1             |
| 19   | CHRISTIE MICHELLE  | I Am                                       | 1              | 1             |
| 20   | BIRDMAN            | 5'Stunes                                   | 1              | 1             |
| 21   | SOULJA BOY TELL EM | souljaboytellem.com                        | 1              | 1             |
| 22   | LEDISI             | Lost & Found                               | 1              | 1             |
| 23   | KIRK FRANKLIN      | The Fight Of My Life                       | 1              | 1             |
| 24   | RIHANNA            | Good Girl Gone Bad                         | 1              | 1             |
| 25   | JOHN LEGEND        | Live From Philadelphia                     | 1              | 1             |
| 26   | PLIES              | The Real Testament                         | 1              | 1             |
| 27   | BOYZ II MEN        | Motown: A Journey Through Hitsville USA    | 1              | 1             |
| 28   | SCAMMARE           | Made                                       | 1              | 1             |
| 29   | DRAMA              | Gengetsu Griz: The Album                   | 1              | 1             |
| 30   | TREY SOHNG         | Trey Day                                   | 1              | 1             |
| 31   | BOW WOW & OMARION  | Face Off                                   | 1              | 1             |
| 32   | GUNNY MARE         | Back To The Triphouse                      | 1              | 1             |
| 33   | GREASED FUNK       | Underground Kings                          | 1              | 1             |
| 34   | SEAN KINGSTON      | Seen Kingston                              | 1              | 1             |
| 35   | VARIOUS ARTISTS    | Now 26                                     | 1              | 1             |
| 36   | ANGIE STONE        | The Art Of Love & War                      | 1              | 1             |
| 37   | KORNEE WEST & BWMB | Never Forget: A Journey Of Revelations     | 1              | 1             |
| 38   | CERNY G            | Rhythm & Romance                           | 1              | 1             |
| 39   | TIMBALAND          | Timbaland Presents Shock Value             | 1              | 1             |
| 40   | JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE  | FutureSex/LoveSounds                       | 1              | 1             |
| 41   | CHAKA KHAN         | Funk This                                  | 1              | 1             |
| 42   | HURRICANE CHRIS    | 51/50 Retched                              | 1              | 1             |
| 43   | PAC! SOUNDTRACK    | American Gangster                          | 1              | 1             |
| 44   | NE-YO              | Because Of You                             | 1              | 1             |
| 45   | 50 CENT            | Curtis                                     | 1              | 1             |
| 46   | BEYONCÉ            | 8Days                                      | 1              | 1             |
| 47   | 2PAC               | The Best Of 2Pac - Part 1: Thug            | 1              | 1             |
| 48   | WYCLIFF JEAN       | Carnival Vol. II: Memories Of An Immigrant | 1              | 1             |
| 49   | BEAN BOP           | The Solution                               | 1              | 1             |
| 50   | WINA HOUSE         | Frank                                      | 1              | 1             |
| 51   | YURKUMOT           | Milton Dollar Mouthpiece                   | 1              | 1             |
| 52   | T.I.               | Ti Vs T.P.                                 | 1              | 1             |
| 53   | JOHN LEGEND        | Once Again                                 | 1              | 1             |
| 54   | T-PAIN             | Epiphany                                   | 1              | 1             |
| 55   | WU-TANG CLAN       | 8 Diagrams                                 | 1              | 1             |

| WEEK | ARTIST                  | ALBUM                                     | WEEKS ON CHART | PEAK POSITION |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1    | STYLES P                | Super Gangster (Extraordinary Gentlemen)  | 1              | 1             |
| 2    | AKON                    | Convicted                                 | 1              | 1             |
| 3    | SPAC                    | The Best Of 2Pac - Part 2: Life           | 1              | 1             |
| 4    | FREWEAY                 | Free At Last                              | 1              | 1             |
| 5    | DJ KHALED               | We Be The Best                            | 1              | 1             |
| 6    | COMMON                  | Finding Forever                           | 1              | 1             |
| 7    | JAGGED EDGE             | Baby Makin' Project                       | 1              | 1             |
| 8    | GHOSTFACE KILLAH        | The Big Doe Rehab                         | 1              | 1             |
| 9    | GORILLA ZOO             | Welcome To The Zoo                        | 1              | 1             |
| 10   | PIITBULL                | The Bootleg                               | 1              | 1             |
| 11   | BIRDMAN & LIL WAYNE     | Like Father, Like Son                     | 1              | 1             |
| 12   | CASSIDY                 | B.A.R.S. The Barry Anderson Rease Story   | 1              | 1             |
| 13   | LIL FLIP & MR. CAPONE E | Still Connected                           | 1              | 1             |
| 14   | TRIN-I-TEE 5.7          | T57                                       | 1              | 1             |
| 15   | R. KELLY                | Double Up                                 | 1              | 1             |
| 16   | QUEEN LATIFAH           | Twilight Light                            | 1              | 1             |
| 17   | SOUNDTRACK              | Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?      | 1              | 1             |
| 18   | WILL DOWNING            | Alter Tension                             | 1              | 1             |
| 19   | ARETHA FRANKLIN         | Jewels In The Crown: Duets With The Queen | 1              | 1             |
| 20   | TANK                    | Sex Love & Pain                           | 1              | 1             |

## TOP BLUES ALBUMS

| WEEK | ARTIST                              | ALBUM                                 | WEEKS ON CHART | PEAK POSITION |
|------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1    | B.B. KING                           | Live                                  | 1              | 1             |
| 2    | STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN & DOUBLE TROUBLE | The Real Deal: Greatest Hits Vol. 1   | 1              | 1             |
| 3    | NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS          | Hernando                              | 1              | 1             |
| 4    | STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN & FRIENDS        | Solos, Sessions & Encores             | 1              | 1             |
| 5    | KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD                | 10 Days Out: Blues From The Backroads | 1              | 1             |
| 6    | ROOMFUL OF BLUES                    | Rebirth: A Ruckus                     | 1              | 1             |
| 7    | JOE BONAMASSA                       | Shine On                              | 1              | 1             |
| 8    | OTIS TAYLOR                         | Recapitulating The Barjo              | 1              | 1             |
| 9    | ARLEN ROOTH FEATURING LEVON HELM    | Toolin' Around Woodstock              | 1              | 1             |
| 10   | SONNET                              | Black Snake Moan                      | 1              | 1             |
| 11   | THE LAYETTE                         | The Scene Of The Crime                | 1              | 1             |
| 12   | WILLIE CLAYTON                      | My Time                               | 1              | 1             |
| 13   | ROBBEN FORD                         | Truth                                 | 1              | 1             |
| 14   | BACK DOOR SLAM                      | Roll Away                             | 1              | 1             |
| 15   | DOYLE BRAMMALL                      | In It News                            | 1              | 1             |

### BETWEEN THE BULLET'S

## JONES BACK IN THE CHART MIX

Jim Jones' "Harlem's American Gangster" debuts at No. 3 on Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Albums and bows at No. 19 as the top-ranked rap album on the Billboard 200 with 25,000 units. Available as a upgrade with new songs and remixed tracks, Jones is prepping the follow-up to "Hustler's P.O.M.E. (Product Of My Environment)." Elsewhere, Mary J. Blige joins Alicia Keys

as the only females since 2002 with seven weeks atop the chart. Pastor Troy lands at No. 15 with "Attitude Adjuster" and UGK returns at the

Greater Antioch medal (No. 33, up 78%). Carmel West's "Never Forget: A Journey of Revelations" re-enters at No. 37 after MTV aired several Black History Month spots featuring the Princeton University professor.

—Raphael George







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## COUNTRY Billboard

## TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS.

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | PEAK | WEEKS ON CHART | ARTIST                             | ALBUM                                                                            | DEBUTING LABEL | PRICE   | Title | LAST WEEK | PEAK | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|-------|-----------|------|----------------|
| 1    |           | 1    | 1              | <b>CHRIS CAGLE</b>                 | <b>My Life's Been A Country Song</b>                                             | RED            | \$19.98 | 1     | 58        | 35   | 32             |
| 2    | 1         | 1    | 2              | <b>TAYLOR SWIFT</b>                | <b>Fearless</b>                                                                  | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 2     | 57        | 36   | 31             |
| 3    | 2         | 1    | 3              | <b>GARTH BROOKS</b>                | <b>The Ultimate Hits</b>                                                         | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 3     | 56        | 37   | 30             |
| 4    | 4         | 7    | 4              | <b>ROBERT PULLEY ALISON KRAUSS</b> | <b>Unlabeled</b>                                                                 | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 4     | 55        | 38   | 29             |
| 5    | 5         | 4    | 5              | <b>EAGLES</b>                      | <b>Long Road Out Of Eden</b>                                                     | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 5     | 54        | 39   | 28             |
| 6    | 6         | 3    | 6              | <b>SUGARLAND</b>                   | <b>Enjoy The Ride</b>                                                            | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 6     | 53        | 40   | 27             |
| 7    | 7         | 5    | 7              | <b>CARRIE UNDERWOOD</b>            | <b>Carnival Ride</b>                                                             | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 7     | 52        | 41   | 26             |
| 8    | 8         | 5    | 8              | <b>RASCAL FLATTS</b>               | <b>Still Feels Good</b>                                                          | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 8     | 51        | 42   | 25             |
| 9    | 9         | 8    | 9              | <b>CARRIE UNDERWOOD</b>            | <b>Live Through This</b>                                                         | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 9     | 50        | 43   | 24             |
| 10   | 10        | 9    | 10             | <b>KENNY CHESNEY</b>               | <b>Just Who I Am: Poets &amp; Pirates</b>                                        | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 10    | 49        | 44   | 23             |
| 11   | 11        | 10   | 11             | <b>TRACE ADKINS</b>                | <b>American Man: Greatest Hits Volume 1</b>                                      | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 11    | 48        | 45   | 22             |
| 12   | 12        | 11   | 12             | <b>KEITH URBAN</b>                 | <b>Greatest Hits</b>                                                             | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 12    | 47        | 46   | 21             |
| 13   | 13        | 10   | 13             | <b>REBA MCENTIRE</b>               | <b>Reba Duets</b>                                                                | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 13    | 46        | 47   | 20             |
| 14   | 14        | 13   | 14             | <b>GARY ALAN</b>                   | <b>Living Hard</b>                                                               | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 14    | 45        | 48   | 19             |
| 15   | 15        | 14   | 15             | <b>CRAIG MORGAN</b>                | <b>Little Bit Of You</b>                                                         | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 15    | 44        | 49   | 18             |
| 16   | 16        | 15   | 16             | <b>BRAD PASKLEY</b>                | <b>5th Gear</b>                                                                  | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 16    | 43        | 50   | 17             |
| 17   | 17        | 16   | 17             | <b>RODNEY ATKINS</b>               | <b>If You're Going Through Hell</b>                                              | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 17    | 42        | 51   | 16             |
| 18   | 18        | 17   | 18             | <b>GEORGE STRAIT</b>               | <b>22 More Hits</b>                                                              | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 18    | 41        | 52   | 15             |
| 19   | 19        | 18   | 19             | <b>JOHN TURNER</b>                 | <b>Everything Is Fine</b>                                                        | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 19    | 40        | 53   | 14             |
| 20   | 20        | 19   | 20             | <b>TIM MCGRAW</b>                  | <b>Let It Go</b>                                                                 | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 20    | 39        | 54   | 13             |
| 21   | 21        | 20   | 21             | <b>MICHAEL LAMBERT</b>             | <b>Crazy Ex-Girlfriend</b>                                                       | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 21    | 38        | 55   | 12             |
| 22   | 22        | 21   | 22             | <b>CHUCK WICKS</b>                 | <b>Starting Now</b>                                                              | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 22    | 37        | 56   | 11             |
| 23   | 23        | 22   | 23             | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b>             | <b>Songs 4 Worship: Country</b>                                                  | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 23    | 36        | 57   | 10             |
| 24   | 24        | 23   | 24             | <b>ANNN MURRAY</b>                 | <b>Duets: Friends &amp; Legends</b>                                              | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 24    | 35        | 58   | 9              |
| 25   | 25        | 24   | 25             | <b>BILLY RAY CYRUS</b>             | <b>Home At Last</b>                                                              | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 25    | 34        | 59   | 8              |
| 26   | 26        | 25   | 26             | <b>WILLIE NELSON</b>               | <b>Moment Of Forever</b>                                                         | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 26    | 33        | 60   | 7              |
| 27   | 27        | 26   | 27             | <b>JASON ALDEAN</b>                | <b>Relentless</b>                                                                | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 27    | 32        | 61   | 6              |
| 28   | 28        | 27   | 28             | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b>             | <b>How Great Thou Art: Gospel Favorites From The Grand Ole Opry</b>              | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 28    | 31        | 62   | 5              |
| 29   | 29        | 28   | 29             | <b>GARY ALAN</b>                   | <b>Greatest Hits</b>                                                             | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 29    | 30        | 63   | 4              |
| 30   | 30        | 29   | 30             | <b>SARA EVANS</b>                  | <b>Greatest Hits</b>                                                             | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 30    | 29        | 64   | 3              |
| 31   | 31        | 30   | 31             | <b>ALISON KRAUSS</b>               | <b>A Hundred Miles Or More: A Collection</b>                                     | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 31    | 28        | 65   | 2              |
| 32   | 32        | 31   | 32             | <b>LEANN RIMES</b>                 | <b>Family</b>                                                                    | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 32    | 27        | 66   | 1              |
| 33   | 33        | 32   | 33             | <b>MONTGOMERY GENTRY</b>           | <b>Some People Change</b>                                                        | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 33    | 26        | 67   | 0              |
| 34   | 34        | 33   | 34             | <b>BROOKS &amp; DUNN</b>           | <b>Cowboy Town</b>                                                               | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 34    | 25        | 68   | 0              |
| 35   | 35        | 34   | 35             | <b>LUCY BRITAN</b>                 | <b>It Stay Me</b>                                                                | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 35    | 24        | 69   | 0              |
| 36   | 36        | 35   | 36             | <b>ALAN JACKSON</b>                | <b>16 Biggest Hits</b>                                                           | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 36    | 23        | 70   | 0              |
| 37   | 37        | 36   | 37             | <b>BIG &amp; RICH</b>              | <b>Between Raising Hell And Amazing Grace</b>                                    | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 37    | 22        | 71   | 0              |
| 38   | 38        | 37   | 38             | <b>KELLIE PICKLER</b>              | <b>Small Town Girl</b>                                                           | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 38    | 21        | 72   | 0              |
| 39   | 39        | 38   | 39             | <b>DIANE BENTLEY</b>               | <b>Long Trip Alone</b>                                                           | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 39    | 20        | 73   | 0              |
| 40   | 40        | 39   | 40             | <b>CLAY WALKER</b>                 | <b>Fail</b>                                                                      | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 40    | 19        | 74   | 0              |
| 41   | 41        | 40   | 41             | <b>GEORGE STRAIT</b>               | <b>It Just Comes Natural</b>                                                     | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 41    | 18        | 75   | 0              |
| 42   | 42        | 41   | 42             | <b>DWIGHT YOAKAM</b>               | <b>Swing Single</b>                                                              | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 42    | 17        | 76   | 0              |
| 43   | 43        | 42   | 43             | <b>JASON MICHAEL CARROLL</b>       | <b>Wetly In The Country</b>                                                      | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 43    | 16        | 77   | 0              |
| 44   | 44        | 43   | 44             | <b>DOLLY PARTON</b>                | <b>16 Biggest Hits</b>                                                           | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 44    | 15        | 78   | 0              |
| 45   | 45        | 44   | 45             | <b>LITTLE BIG TOWN</b>             | <b>A Piece To Land</b>                                                           | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 45    | 14        | 79   | 0              |
| 46   | 46        | 45   | 46             | <b>TRISHA YEARWOOD</b>             | <b>Heaven, Heartache And The Power Of Love</b>                                   | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 46    | 13        | 80   | 0              |
| 47   | 47        | 46   | 47             | <b>FAITH HILL</b>                  | <b>The Hits</b>                                                                  | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 47    | 12        | 81   | 0              |
| 48   | 48        | 47   | 48             | <b>DOLLY PARTON</b>                | <b>Backwoods Barbie</b>                                                          | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 48    | 11        | 82   | 0              |
| 49   | 49        | 48   | 49             | <b>TOBY KEITH</b>                  | <b>Big Dog Daddy</b>                                                             | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 49    | 10        | 83   | 0              |
| 50   | 50        | 49   | 50             | <b>TRACE LAWRENCE</b>              | <b>For The Love</b>                                                              | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 50    | 9         | 84   | 0              |
| 51   | 51        | 50   | 51             | <b>VINCE GILL</b>                  | <b>These Days</b>                                                                | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 51    | 8         | 85   | 0              |
| 52   | 52        | 51   | 52             | <b>KEITH URBAN</b>                 | <b>Love, Pain &amp; The Whole Crazy Thing</b>                                    | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 52    | 7         | 86   | 0              |
| 53   | 53        | 52   | 53             | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b>             | <b>I Will Always Love You: 17 Inspirational Love Songs...</b>                    | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 53    | 6         | 87   | 0              |
| 54   | 54        | 53   | 54             | <b>BLAKE SHELTON</b>               | <b>Pure BS</b>                                                                   | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 54    | 5         | 88   | 0              |
| 55   | 55        | 54   | 55             | <b>REBA MCENTIRE</b>               | <b>The Best Of Reba McEntire: 20th Century Masters The Millennium Collection</b> | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 55    | 4         | 89   | 0              |

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | PEAK | WEEKS ON CHART | ARTIST                       | ALBUM                                             | DEBUTING LABEL | PRICE   | Title | LAST WEEK | PEAK | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|-------|-----------|------|----------------|
| 1    |           | 1    | 1              | <b>ALABAMA</b>               | <b>16 Biggest Hits</b>                            | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 1     | 58        | 35   | 32             |
| 2    | 1         | 1    | 2              | <b>SOUNDTRACK</b>            | <b>Broken Bridges</b>                             | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 2     | 57        | 36   | 31             |
| 3    | 2         | 1    | 3              | <b>BUCKY COVINGTON</b>       | <b>Bucky Covington</b>                            | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 3     | 56        | 37   | 30             |
| 4    | 3         | 1    | 4              | <b>RODNEY CARBONELL</b>      | <b>King Of The Mountains</b>                      | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 4     | 55        | 38   | 29             |
| 5    | 4         | 1    | 5              | <b>TRAVIS TRITT</b>          | <b>The Very Best Of Travis Tritt</b>              | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 5     | 54        | 39   | 28             |
| 6    | 5         | 1    | 6              | <b>SHOOTER JENNINGS</b>      | <b>The Wolf</b>                                   | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 6     | 53        | 40   | 27             |
| 7    | 6         | 1    | 7              | <b>TRISHA YEARWOOD</b>       | <b>Greatest Hits</b>                              | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 7     | 52        | 41   | 26             |
| 8    | 7         | 1    | 8              | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b>       | <b>Country's Got Hits</b>                         | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 8     | 51        | 42   | 25             |
| 9    | 8         | 1    | 9              | <b>SHEDADY</b>               | <b>Country's Got Hits</b>                         | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 9     | 50        | 43   | 24             |
| 10   | 9         | 1    | 10             | <b>MARTINA MCBRIDE</b>       | <b>Waking Up Laughing</b>                         | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 10    | 49        | 44   | 23             |
| 11   | 10        | 1    | 11             | <b>TRISHA YEARWOOD</b>       | <b>Love Songs</b>                                 | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 11    | 48        | 45   | 22             |
| 12   | 11        | 1    | 12             | <b>JACK INGRAM</b>           | <b>This Is It</b>                                 | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 12    | 47        | 46   | 21             |
| 13   | 12        | 1    | 13             | <b>STEVE EARLE</b>           | <b>Washington Square Serenade</b>                 | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 13    | 46        | 47   | 20             |
| 14   | 13        | 1    | 14             | <b>DIAMOND RIO</b>           | <b>16 Biggest Hits</b>                            | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 14    | 45        | 48   | 19             |
| 15   | 14        | 1    | 15             | <b>KENNY CHESNEY</b>         | <b>Live: These Songs Again</b>                    | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 15    | 44        | 49   | 18             |
| 16   | 15        | 1    | 16             | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b>       | <b>Best Of Country</b>                            | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 16    | 43        | 50   | 17             |
| 17   | 16        | 1    | 17             | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b>       | <b>Three Wooden Crosses</b>                       | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 17    | 42        | 51   | 16             |
| 18   | 17        | 1    | 18             | <b>JAKE OWEN</b>             | <b>Stardust With Me</b>                           | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 18    | 41        | 52   | 15             |
| 19   | 18        | 1    | 19             | <b>CROSS COUNTRY RAGWOOD</b> | <b>Mission California</b>                         | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 19    | 40        | 53   | 14             |
| 20   | 19        | 1    | 20             | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b>       | <b>Original American Classics: Country Greats</b> | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 20    | 39        | 54   | 13             |

## TOP BLUEGRASS ALBUMS.

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | PEAK | WEEKS ON CHART | ARTIST                                   | ALBUM                                                   | DEBUTING LABEL | PRICE   | Title | LAST WEEK | PEAK | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|------|----------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|-------|-----------|------|----------------|
| 1    |           | 1    | 1              | <b>RHONDA VINCENT</b>                    | <b>Good Thing Going</b>                                 | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 1     | 58        | 35   | 32             |
| 2    | 1         | 1    | 2              | <b>BLUE HIGHWAY</b>                      | <b>Through The Window Of A Train</b>                    | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 2     | 57        | 36   | 31             |
| 3    | 2         | 1    | 3              | <b>DAILEY &amp; VINCENT</b>              | <b>Dailey &amp; Vincent</b>                             | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 3     | 56        | 37   | 30             |
| 4    | 3         | 1    | 4              | <b>THE STEEL DRIVERS</b>                 | <b>Shedwards</b>                                        | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 4     | 55        | 38   | 29             |
| 5    | 4         | 1    | 5              | <b>STEVE IVEY</b>                        | <b>Best Of Bluegrass Gospel: Collectors' Edition</b>    | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 5     | 54        | 39   | 28             |
| 6    | 5         | 1    | 6              | <b>MERLE HAGGARD</b>                     | <b>The Bluegrass Sessions</b>                           | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 6     | 53        | 40   | 27             |
| 7    | 6         | 1    | 7              | <b>NICKEL CREEK</b>                      | <b>Reasons Why (The Very Best)</b>                      | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 7     | 52        | 41   | 26             |
| 8    | 7         | 1    | 8              | <b>RICKY SKAGGS &amp; THE WHITES</b>     | <b>Salt Of The Earth</b>                                | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 8     | 51        | 42   | 25             |
| 9    | 8         | 1    | 9              | <b>TIM HENSLER</b>                       | <b>Abraham Lincoln In Song</b>                          | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 9     | 50        | 43   | 24             |
| 10   | 9         | 1    | 10             | <b>CHRIS VALLILLO</b>                    | <b>30 Vintage Classics</b>                              | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 10    | 49        | 44   | 23             |
| 11   | 10        | 1    | 11             | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b>                   | <b>Sound Traditions: Appalachian Mountain Bluegrass</b> | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 11    | 48        | 45   | 22             |
| 12   | 11        | 1    | 12             | <b>BIRD TIME OUT</b>                     | <b>Footprints: A Bird Time Out Collection</b>           | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 12    | 47        | 46   | 21             |
| 13   | 12        | 1    | 13             | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b>                   | <b>Original America Classics: Bluegrass Classics</b>    | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 13    | 46        | 47   | 20             |
| 14   | 13        | 1    | 14             | <b>RICKY SKAGGS &amp; BRUCE HORNISBY</b> | <b>Ricky Skaggs &amp; Bruce Hornsby</b>                 | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 14    | 45        | 48   | 19             |
| 15   | 14        | 1    | 15             | <b>THE DEVIL MAKES THREE</b>             | <b>The Devil Makes Three</b>                            | REPUBLIC       | \$19.98 | 15    | 44        | 49   | 18             |

BETWEEN THE BULLETS [www.billboard.com](http://www.billboard.com)

## CAGLE FAST IN SLOW SALES WEEK

Last week's Top Country Albums saw all but five titles gain in the wake of Valentine's Day shopping and Grammy awards impact. This week, as the chart adjusts back to normal, every set on the list declines in sales, save for new and re-releases. Thus, the Facemaster award, normally earned by the album with the largest percentage increase, goes to the title with the smallest drop: Miranda Lambert's "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" (No. 21, down 12%).

In light of the overall market decline this week, any title with less than a 20% sales drop earns a bullet.

At No. 1, Chris Cagle earns his second chart-topper while on the Billboard 200, he nabs his first top 10. At No. 48, Dolly Parton's "Backwoods Barbie" bows a week early after Internet retailers shipped the album early to consumers.

—Keith Caulfield

## Billboard COUNTRY

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## HOT COUNTRY SONGS

| DATE | TIME | TITLE | ARTIST                                                                 | PERFORMER                                                     |
|------|------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | 1    | 23    | <b>CLEANING THIS JOG (COME ON IN BOY)</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3   | George Abina<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                       |
| 1    | 4    | 6     | <b>SHIFTWORK</b><br>A COUNTRY A COUNTRY (E JAMES)                      | Kenny Chesney Dual With Rodney Ash<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3 |
| 3    | 3    | 1     | <b>LETTER TO ME</b><br>I LETTUCE IN BABY (E)                           | Brad Paisley<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                       |
| 4    | 7    | 8     | <b>SMALL TOWN SOUTHERN MAN</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3              | Alm Jackson<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                        |
| 5    | 8    | 7     | <b>ALL-AMERICAN GIRL</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                    | Carnie Underwood<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                   |
| 6    | 2    | 4     | <b>WATCHING AIRPLANES</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                   | Gray Allen<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                         |
| 7    | 9    | 0     | <b>STEALING CINDERELLA</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                  | Chucky Allen<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                       |
| 8    | 5    | 5     | <b>READY SET GO</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                         | Billy Ray Cyrus With Jimmy White<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3   |
| 9    | 11   | 5     | <b>WHAT KINDA GORE</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                      | Chris Cagle<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                        |
| 10   | 12   | 15    | <b>YOU'RE GOINGNA MISS THIS</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3             | Trace Adkins<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                       |
| 11   | 16   | 18    | <b>INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3              | Craig Morgan<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                       |
| 12   | 19   | 3     | <b>GREATEST I SAW GOD TODAY</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3             | George Strait<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                      |
| 13   | 2    | 2     | <b>WINNER AT A LOSING GAME</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3              | Rascal Flatts<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                      |
| 14   | 3    | 4     | <b>LAUGHED UNTIL WE CRIED</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3               | Uncle Stringer<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                     |
| 15   | 14   | 13    | <b>GOD MUST BE BUSY</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                     | Jason Aldean<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                       |
| 16   | 15   | 10    | <b>JUST GOT STARTED LOVIN' YOU</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3          | Brooks & Dunn<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                      |
| 17   | 16   | 20    | <b>LOVE IS A BEAUTIFUL THING</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3            | James Otto<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                         |
| 18   | 17   | 17    | <b>IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                 | Phil Vassar<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                        |
| 19   | 18   | 17    | <b>PICTURE IN YOUR MIND</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                 | Bucky Cornmont<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                     |
| 20   | 25   | 7     | <b>LOVE DON'T COME HERE</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                 | Taylor Swift<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                       |
| 21   | 22   | 21    | <b>THINGS THAT NEVER CROSS A MAN'S MIND</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3 | Lady Antebellum<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                    |
| 22   | 23   | 21    | <b>WORKIN' FOR A LUVIN'</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                 | Keltie Picard<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                      |
| 23   | 24   | 21    | <b>AIN'T NO CRIME</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                       | Garth Brooks & Hysley Lewis<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3        |
| 24   | 25   | 23    | <b>YOU STILL OWN ME</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                     | Phyllis Diller<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                     |
| 25   | 26   | 23    | <b>SOMETHING ABOUT A WOMAN</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3              | Jason Owen<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                         |
| 26   | 27   | 23    | <b>STRONGER WOMAN</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                       | Jewel<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                              |
| 27   | 28   | 23    | <b>GET MY DRINK ON</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                      | Toyah Keith<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                        |
| 28   | 29   | 23    | <b>TRYING TO STOP YOUR LEAVING</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3          | Darius Bentley<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                     |
| 29   | 30   | 23    | <b>TAKIN' OFF THIS PAIN</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                 | Ashley Shepherd<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                    |
| 30   | 31   | 23    | <b>MAYBE SHE LL GET LONELY</b><br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3              | Jack Ingram<br>AUGUSTUS & THE MIGHTY 3                        |



Raising is Louisiana  
-nator's 15th  
top 10, marking  
his fastest trip  
into the top  
bracket since "I  
Left Something  
Turned On at  
Home" in 1992.  
On Top Country  
Albums, all nine  
of his entries  
have reached



netches 20th top  
40 hit, dating  
back to 1995.  
Track previews  
forthcoming  
set, due  
this summer



toward song's rise, fueled by airplay at 10 new stations, 15 overall.

[illegible]

☆ HITPREDICTOR

DATE FORWARDED BY

| COUNTRY                                    | Chart Rank | ARTIST/Title (and Chart)                    | Chart Rank | ARTIST/Title (and Chart)                         | Chart Rank |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Clearing This Gun (Come On In Baby) (74.1) | 1          | Lauryn Hill We aint your woman now (80.5)   | 14         | Mayday She's Got Lonely on me (82.2)             | 30         |
| Small Town Southern Man (85.1)             | 4          | God Must Be Easy (80.4) (80.5)              | 16         | Another Day (81.1)                               | 31         |
| Am America (81.1)                          | 5          | Just Got Started Lovin' You (76.1)          | 17         | We Weren't Crazy (77.1) (80.5)                   | 32         |
| Shining Diamond (76.1)                     | 7          | Love is a Beautiful Thing (75.1)            | 17         | Competition & Love (81.1)                        | 33         |
| When Kinky Gets Crazy (80.3)               | 8          | It's Good To Be A Woman (78.4)              | 17         | STAYC LAYTON: I'm A Lady You Never Forget (82.2) | 37         |
| You're Gonna Miss This (80.1)              | 10         | Phish: I Want You (80.1)                    | 18         | PHISH: I Want You (80.1)                         | 38         |
| I Saw God (76.1)                           | 12         | Things That Never Cross A Man's Mind (83.2) | 21         | That's Why God Made Me An Unbeliever (88.1)      | 40         |
|                                            |            | You Still Over Me (80.1)                    | 24         |                                                  |            |

**Don't miss another important**

# R&R COUNTRY DAILY UPDATE

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**RadioandRecords.com**

**HOT COUNTRY SONGS:** 13 country stations are electronically monitored by Nielsen Broadcast Data Systems, 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Airpower awarded to songs appearing in the top 20 on both the BDS Airplay and Audience charts for the first time with increases in both detections and audience. © 2008 Nielsen Business Media, Inc. All rights reserved.

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## BETWEEN THE BULLETS wjessen@billboard.com

## FLATTS, PAISLEY LIGHT UP SINGLES CHART

Two of country's heaviest hitters, Rascal Flatts and Brad Paisley, post solid debuts with new singles from chart-topping albums. The former opens at No. 42 with "Every Day," the third hit from "Still Feels Good." "Take Me There" topped the list for three weeks in the fall, while "Winner at a Losing Game" spent four weeks at No. 2 last month. The set led Top Country Albums for four weeks and has sold 1.7 million copies. "Every" is the act's 29th chart hit, most by a group this decade. At No.



## RASCAL FLATTS

48. Paisley seeks a seventh consecutive No. 1 with "I'm Still a Guy." The light-hearted cut is the fourth single from "5th Gear," which led the album list for four weeks in July and has moved 800,000 copies. "Guy," which garners airplay at a chart-best 38 new signals, follows the album's No. 1s: "Ticks," "Online" and "Letter to Me." Rodney Atkins meanwhile locks and loads a second week at No. 1 with "Cleaning This Gun (Come On In Boy)," leading by 2.9 million in audience.

—Gary Trust



**LATIN AIRPLAY**  
**POP**

[illegible]

**LATIN ALBUMS**  
**POP**

[illegible]

## RHYTHM

|    |    |                                                                                                         |
|----|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7  | 1  | <b>TITLE</b><br>ARTIST (OFFICIAL + PRODUCTION LABEL)                                                    |
| 8  | 2  | <b>DE QUIERO</b><br>EDU TO (CUBA)                                                                       |
| 9  | 3  | <b>BOY GIGANT QUE TU</b><br>BENJAMIN (CUBA) + JAMES COTTELL                                             |
| 10 | 4  | <b>PERDONAME</b><br>TALORDA (CUBA) + LANTINO                                                            |
| 11 | 5  | <b>THE ANTHEM</b><br>PETER PERFORMER (J. JONES + ARTISTS) (TITLE)                                       |
| 12 | 6  | <b>DONDE ESTABA CORAZON</b><br>JUAN CARLOS (CUBA)                                                       |
| 13 | 7  | <b>SEUS MOVIMENTO</b><br>BENJAMIN + MADE IN CUBA                                                        |
| 14 | 8  | <b>POB TI BABY</b><br>JUAN CARLOS (CUBA) + BENJAMIN + JAMES COTTELL                                     |
| 15 | 9  | <b>EL PERDEDOR</b><br>NOVA (CUBA) + MADE IN CUBA                                                        |
| 16 | 10 | <b>LET'S DO IT</b><br>JONES + J. JONES (TITLE)                                                          |
| 17 | 11 | <b>NO ME TRAGAS QUE NO</b><br>JUAN CARLOS (CUBA)                                                        |
| 18 | 12 | <b>MIS DIAS SIN TI</b><br>TALORDA (CUBA) + LANTINO                                                      |
| 19 | 13 | <b>AMORA ES</b><br>JUAN CARLOS (CUBA)                                                                   |
| 20 | 14 | <b>TON TON TON</b><br>LOWE (CUBA) + JAMES COTTELL (LANTINO)                                             |
| 21 | 15 | <b>LOWE (JAMES COTTELL) + J. JONES + J. JONES</b><br>LOWE (JAMES COTTELL) + J. JONES + J. JONES (TITLE) |
| 22 | 16 | <b>FASHION GIRL</b><br>JAMES COTTELL (CUBA)                                                             |

## RHYTHM

[illegible]

## REGIONAL MEXICAN

| TIME | TITLE                                   | ARTIST (ORIGINAL / PRODUCTION LABEL) |
|------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1    | THE LOLORE                              | ENRIQUE JIMENEZ / FRONTERA           |
| 2    | SOBRE MIS PIES                          | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 3    | LA VIDA ES UN VIAJE                     | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 4    | TE ME AGRAAN LAS GANAS (CUECA LOS OJOS) | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 5    | LA CHULE DE SANGRA                      | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 6    | UN BUEN PERDODOR                        | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 7    | E LA VITA E' FINCE DE VITA (LA SANGRA)  | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 8    | ESTOS CELLOS                            | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 9    | TE QUERO MUCHO                          | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 10   | RUMBO AL SUR                            | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 11   | EL VASO DERRAMA                         | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 12   | POR QUIEN ME DEJAS                      | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 13   | CHIL LAURICHO                           | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 14   | PAZ EN ESTE AMOR                        | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 15   | TE TE LAS VAS                           | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 16   | LA RITA DE FLACA                        | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 17   | COMO EN LOS BUENOS TIEMPOS              | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |
| 18   | VA NUNCA MAS                            | LAURENCE / FRONTERA                  |

## REGIONAL MEXICAN

**ARTIST**  
TITULO (FORMATO) (CANTIDAD DE DISCOS)

1 K-PAZ DE LA SIERRA  
K-PAZ DE LA SIERRA (CD) (1)

2 VICENTE FERNANDEZ  
VICENTE FERNANDEZ (CD) (1)

3 K-PAZ DE LA SIERRA  
K-PAZ DE LA SIERRA (CD) (1)

4 EL CHAPO DE SINALOA  
EL CHAPO DE SINALOA (CD) (1)

5 LUNES MONTAÑAS Y AMAROS  
LUNES MONTAÑAS Y AMAROS (CD) (1)

6 CONJUNTO PRIMAVERA  
CONJUNTO PRIMAVERA (CD) (1)

7 VICENTE FERNANDEZ  
VICENTE FERNANDEZ (CD) (1)

8 LOS CUATES DE SINALOA  
LOS CUATES DE SINALOA (CD) (1)

9 K-PAZ DE LA SIERRA  
K-PAZ DE LA SIERRA (CD) (1)

10 LOS TIJERES DEL NORTE  
LOS TIJERES DEL NORTE (CD) (1)

11 BANDA RECOCO  
BANDA RECOCO (CD) (1)

12 LA ARROLLADORA BALANZA DEL LIMON  
LA ARROLLADORA BALANZA DEL LIMON (CD) (1)

13 LOS TUCANES DE TIJUANÁ  
LOS TUCANES DE TIJUANÁ (CD) (1)

14 ALACRANES MUSICAL  
ALACRANES MUSICAL (CD) (1)

15 EL CHAPO DE SINALOA  
EL CHAPO DE SINALOA (CD) (1)

16 EL CHAPO DE SINALOA  
EL CHAPO DE SINALOA (CD) (1)

17 BRINGO / LOS BUKIS / LOS TEMERARIOS  
BRINGO / LOS BUKIS / LOS TEMERARIOS (CD) (1)

**HOT  
DANCE CLUB PLAY**

| DATE | TIME | TITLE | ARTIST/TWIST                 | PROMOTION LABEL | DATE | TIME | TITLE | ARTIST/TWIST                   | PROMOTION LABEL |
|------|------|-------|------------------------------|-----------------|------|------|-------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1    | 2    | 1     | PIECE OF ME                  | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 1     | SENSUAL SEDUCTION              | THE BOSS        |
| 2    | 3    | 2     | TOGETHER                     | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 2     | WHISKEY/WHISKEY (I'M SO READY) | THE BOSS        |
| 3    | 4    | 3     | FEEDBACK                     | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 3     | JIMMY                          | THE BOSS        |
| 4    | 5    | 4     | THE BOSS                     | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 4     | BREAK YU                       | THE BOSS        |
| 5    | 6    | 5     | LOVE'S IN A JAR              | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 5     | ALPHABETIC REVIEWS             | THE BOSS        |
| 6    | 7    | 6     | IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH         | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 6     | PACK YOUR BAGS                 | THE BOSS        |
| 7    | 8    | 7     | AMAZING                      | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 7     | WANNABE                        | THE BOSS        |
| 8    | 9    | 8     | HOT SHOT                     | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 8     | IF                             | THE BOSS        |
| 9    | 10   | 9     | LOVE'S IN A JAR              | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 9     | QUILITY YU                     | THE BOSS        |
| 10   | 11   | 10    | GORGEOUS                     | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 10    | RUN THE SHOW                   | THE BOSS        |
| 11   | 12   | 11    | HOW FAR WE'VE COME           | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 11    | LYNDORIC MC                    | THE BOSS        |
| 12   | 13   | 12    | JUST MY FINE                 | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 12    | HEAD OVER HEELS                | THE BOSS        |
| 13   | 14   | 13    | GIVE IT ALL YOU GOT          | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 13    | LIES                           | THE BOSS        |
| 14   | 15   | 14    | BEAUTIFUL                    | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 14    | LOVE SWEET SOUND               | THE BOSS        |
| 15   | 16   | 15    | GET THIS PARTY STARTED       | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 15    | APOLOGIZE                      | THE BOSS        |
| 16   | 17   | 16    | GIVE IT                      | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 16    | DESTINY                        | THE BOSS        |
| 17   | 18   | 17    | THE GIRL YOU LOST TO COCAINE | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 17    | FUEGO                          | THE BOSS        |
| 18   | 19   | 18    | THE FLAME                    | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 18    | BREAKAWAY                      | THE BOSS        |
| 19   | 20   | 19    | UNTIL THE END OF TIME        | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 19    | LONG TIME                      | THE BOSS        |
| 20   | 21   | 20    | CHARMED LIFE                 | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 20    | LOVELIGHT                      | THE BOSS        |
| 21   | 22   | 21    | WITH EVERY HEARTBEAT         | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 21    | EVERYBODY UP                   | THE BOSS        |
| 22   | 23   | 22    | BREAKING DISHES              | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 22    | I GOT OFF                      | THE BOSS        |
| 23   | 24   | 23    | LET GO                       | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 23    | THE LONGEST ROAD               | THE BOSS        |
| 24   | 25   | 24    | MY LIFE AGLING               | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 24    | DAYLIGHT                       | THE BOSS        |
| 25   | 26   | 25    | I GOT A FEELIN'              | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 25    | PREAK                          | THE BOSS        |
| 26   | 27   | 26    | BESITO PA TI                 | THE BOSS        | 30   | 3    | 26    | OUT OF THE DARK                | THE BOSS        |

## TOP ELECTRONIC ALBUMS

| ARTIST | THEATRE | DATE | TIME | LOCATION                                          |
|--------|---------|------|------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | 1       | 4    | 8    | <b>ANNAN MONTANA</b><br>ANNAN MONTANA / 10:30     |
| 2      | 1       | 4    | 8    | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 3      | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>JO SKRIBBLE</b><br>JO SKRIBBLE / 10:30         |
| 4      | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 5      | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>M.I.A.</b><br>M.I.A. / 10:30                   |
| 6      | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 7      | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>HOT CHIP</b><br>HOT CHIP / 10:30               |
| 8      | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 9      | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>DAFT PUNK</b><br>DAFT PUNK / 10:30             |
| 10     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 11     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>PAUL OAKENFOLD</b><br>PAUL OAKENFOLD / 10:30   |
| 12     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>JUSTICE</b><br>JUSTICE / 10:30                 |
| 13     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 14     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 15     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 16     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 17     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 18     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 19     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 20     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 21     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 22     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 23     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 24     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 25     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |
| 26     | 2       | 7    | 10   | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS / 10:30 |

**A HOT DANCE AIRPLAY**

| WEEK | DATE | TITLE                              | ARTIST               | THROW A BURNIN' (PROMOTION LABEL) |
|------|------|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1    | 1    | LET ME THINK ABOUT IT              | THE NOTORIOUS B.I.G. |                                   |
| 2    | 1    | WHAT HURTS THE MOST                | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 1    | 2    | I CAN'T HELP MYSELF                | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 1    | 2    | ANYHEM                             | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 4    | 3    | FLY AROUND THE COUNTRY LIKE A BOMB | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 4    | 3    | RISE UP                            | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 5    | 4    | YOUR LINGERING SMELL               | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 6    | 5    | BABY WHEN THE LIGHT                | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 7    | 6    | FEEDBACK                           | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 7    | 6    | STARS                              | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 8    | 7    | JUST FINE                          | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 9    | 8    | HARTY                              | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 10   | 9    | CALABRIA 2008                      | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 11   | 10   | UNTIL THE END OF TIME              | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 12   | 11   | LOVE HAS GONE                      | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 13   | 12   | LOVE AND HONOR                     | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 14   | 13   | NOW YOU'RE GONE                    | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 15   | 14   | TOGETHER                           | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 16   | 15   | PIECE OF ME                        | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 17   | 16   | LOVE LIKE THIS                     | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 18   | 17   | WITH EVERY HEARTBEAT               | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 19   | 18   | AMAZING                            | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 20   | 19   | HANDLE ME                          | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 21   | 20   | APPOLOGIZE                         | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 22   | 21   | YOU DON'T KNOW                     | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 23   | 22   | GET UP                             | ILL JILL             |                                   |
| 24   | 23   | ROUND & ROUND                      | ILL JILL             |                                   |

MAR  
8  
2008

# THE BILLBOARD

| JAPAN |      |                                                                                            |                   |
|-------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WEEK  | LAST | ALBUMS                                                                                     |                   |
| WEEK  | LAST |                                                                                            |                   |
| 1     | NEW  | <b>THE BRILLIANT GREEN</b><br>COMPLETE SINGLE COLLECTION BY GEMINI DISC<br>LIFE ALBUM EPC  | FEBRUARY 29, 2008 |
| 2     | 1    | <b>KIMONO GAKURI</b><br>LIFE ALBUM EPC                                                     |                   |
| 3     | NEW  | <b>ACID BLACK CHERRY</b><br>BLACK LOST LIVES BOX SET VOL. 1<br>LIFE ALBUM EPC              |                   |
| 4     | NEW  | <b>BLACK LOST LIVES BOX SET VOL. 2</b><br>LIFE ALBUM EPC                                   |                   |
| 5     | NEW  | <b>YUNA ITAO</b><br>HONEY LIPS EDITION SONY                                                |                   |
| 6     | 2    | <b>M.M.F.O.</b><br>SUNSHINE SPRINGS MILE 22 (CD) SONY                                      |                   |
| 7     | NEW  | <b>KURURI</b><br>PILGRIMAGE OF THE VICTOR<br>LIFE ALBUM UNIVERSAL                          |                   |
| 8     | 4    | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>LOVE, SEX & MURDER: A JAPANESE MANIFESTO<br>LIFE ALBUM UNIVERSAL |                   |
| 9     | 5    | <b>THE BRILLIANT GREEN</b><br>COMPLETE SINGLE COLLECTION BY GEMINI DISC<br>LIFE ALBUM EPC  |                   |
| 10    | NEW  |                                                                                            |                   |

| FRANCE |      |                                                                     |                   |
|--------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WEEK   | LAST | ALBUMS                                                              |                   |
| WEEK   | LAST |                                                                     |                   |
| 1      | 1    | <b>MICHAEL JACKSON</b><br>THROUGH THE STATE OF GRACE EPIC UNIVERSAL | FEBRUARY 29, 2008 |
| 2      | 2    | <b>VOX ANGELI</b><br>VOX ANGELI RCA                                 |                   |
| 3      | 3    | <b>REMAN LUCE</b><br>REMAN LUCE                                     |                   |
| 4      | 2    | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>BACK TO BLACK EMI                           |                   |
| 5      | NEW  | <b>CHRISTOPHE MAE</b><br>NEW MANHATTAN                              |                   |
| 6      | 21   | <b>THOMAS DUTRONC</b><br>COULEURS DE MONTAGNE SONY CLASSIC          |                   |
| 7      | 11   | <b>YVES NAIM</b><br>YVES NAIM (CD) SONY                             |                   |
| 8      | 3    | <b>CALLI</b><br>LEPOTIF EMI                                         |                   |
| 9      | 10   | <b>JENIFER</b><br>L'AMOUR EST UN ART SONY                           |                   |
| 10     | 6    | <b>BERNARD LAVILLIERS</b><br>BONNE NUIT A BOUTONNET SONY CLASSIC    |                   |

| ITALY |      |                                                                     |                   |
|-------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WEEK  | LAST | ALBUMS                                                              |                   |
| WEEK  | LAST |                                                                     |                   |
| 1     | 1    | <b>POOH</b><br>BEAT REGENERATION ATLANTIC                           | FEBRUARY 29, 2008 |
| 2     | 2    | <b>JOVANNOTTI</b><br>SUNSHINE SPRINGS MILE 22 (CD) SONY             |                   |
| 3     | NEW  | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>BACK TO BLACK EMI                           |                   |
| 4     | NEW  | <b>GIANNI NANNINI</b><br>GIANNI NANNINI                             |                   |
| 5     | NEW  | <b>LENNY KRAVITZ</b><br>IT IS THE WAY OF LOVE PRODUCTIONS           |                   |
| 6     | NEW  | <b>EROS RAMAZZOTTI</b><br>EROS RAMAZZOTTI                           |                   |
| 7     | 1    | <b>MICHAEL JACKSON</b><br>THROUGH THE STATE OF GRACE EPIC UNIVERSAL |                   |
| 8     | NEW  | <b>VAN DE SPROOS DAVIDE</b><br>KID IN THE STREET SONY CLASSIC       |                   |
| 9     | NEW  | <b>LIGABUE</b><br>LIGABUE SONY CLASSIC                              |                   |
| 10    | 11   | <b>BAUSTELLE</b><br>AMERICA SONY CLASSIC                            |                   |

| SWITZERLAND |      |                                                                        |                   |
|-------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WEEK        | LAST | SINGLES                                                                |                   |
| WEEK        | LAST |                                                                        |                   |
| 1           | 1    | <b>BLEEDING LOVE</b><br>BLEEDING LOVE (CD) SONY                        | FEBRUARY 27, 2008 |
| 2           | 2    | <b>APOLLOZEE</b><br>THUNDERBOLT FOR DREAMWALKER (CD) SONY              |                   |
| 3           | NEW  | <b>MY MAN IS A MEAN MAN</b><br>STONED RECORDS                          |                   |
| 4           | NEW  | <b>EIN STERN (DER ZEICHEN NAMEN TRAGT)</b><br>STONED RECORDS           |                   |
| 5           | NEW  | <b>NEW SOUL</b><br>NEW SOUL (CD) SONY                                  |                   |
| 6           | NEW  | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>BACK TO BLACK EMI                              |                   |
| 7           | 1    | <b>LENNY KRAVITZ</b><br>IT IS THE WAY OF LOVE PRODUCTIONS              |                   |
| 8           | 2    | <b>LEONIA LEWIS</b><br>LEONIA LEWIS                                    |                   |
| 9           | 3    | <b>MICHAEL JACKSON</b><br>THROUGH THE STATE OF GRACE EPIC UNIVERSAL    |                   |
| 10          | 4    | <b>JACK JOHNSON</b><br>SLEEP THROUGH THE STATE OF GRACE EPIC UNIVERSAL |                   |

| UNITED KINGDOM |      |                                                                        |                   |
|----------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WEEK           | LAST | ALBUMS                                                                 |                   |
| WEEK           | LAST |                                                                        |                   |
| 1              | NEW  | <b>THE FEELING</b><br>THE FEELING (CD) SONY                            | FEBRUARY 24, 2008 |
| 2              | 2    | <b>NICKELBACK</b><br>ALL THE RIGHT REASONS ROADRUNNER                  |                   |
| 3              | 3    | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>BACK TO BLACK EMI                              |                   |
| 4              | 22   | <b>MARK RONSON</b><br>MARK RONSON                                      |                   |
| 5              | 1    | <b>MIRA</b><br>IT IS THE WAY OF LOVE PRODUCTIONS                       |                   |
| 6              | 1    | <b>MICHAEL JACKSON</b><br>THROUGH THE STATE OF GRACE EPIC UNIVERSAL    |                   |
| 7              | 1    | <b>ADLE</b><br>ADLE                                                    |                   |
| 8              | 1    | <b>JACK JOHNSON</b><br>SLEEP THROUGH THE STATE OF GRACE EPIC UNIVERSAL |                   |
| 9              | NEW  | <b>JONATHAN ANNE</b><br>THE WAY OF LOVE PRODUCTIONS                    |                   |
| 10             | 11   | <b>RIHANNA</b><br>R.I.D. (CD) SONY                                     |                   |

| AUSTRALIA |      |                                                                        |                   |
|-----------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WEEK      | LAST | ALBUMS                                                                 |                   |
| WEEK      | LAST |                                                                        |                   |
| 1         | 1    | <b>JACK JOHNSON</b><br>SLEEP THROUGH THE STATE OF GRACE EPIC UNIVERSAL | FEBRUARY 24, 2008 |
| 2         | 2    | <b>MICHAEL JACKSON</b><br>THROUGH THE STATE OF GRACE EPIC UNIVERSAL    |                   |
| 3         | 3    | <b>LEONIA LEWIS</b><br>LEONIA LEWIS                                    |                   |
| 4         | NEW  | <b>RIHANNA</b><br>R.I.D. (CD) SONY                                     |                   |
| 5         | 3    | <b>K.D. LANG</b><br>NORTHERN PRODUCTIONS                               |                   |
| 6         | NEW  | <b>SIMPLE PLAN</b><br>SIMPLE PLAN (CD) SONY                            |                   |
| 7         | 1    | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>BACK TO BLACK EMI                              |                   |
| 8         | 10   | <b>THE VERONICAS</b><br>THE WAY OF LOVE PRODUCTIONS                    |                   |
| 9         | 6    | <b>SOUNDTRACK</b><br>SOUNDTRACK                                        |                   |
| 10        | 5    | <b>MATCHBOX TWENTY</b><br>GOLD ON MOUNTAIN (CD) SONY                   |                   |

| SPAIN |      |                                                                     |                   |
|-------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WEEK  | LAST | ALBUMS                                                              |                   |
| WEEK  | LAST |                                                                     |                   |
| 1     | 2    | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>BACK TO BLACK EMI                           | FEBRUARY 27, 2008 |
| 2     | 1    | <b>MICHAEL JACKSON</b><br>THROUGH THE STATE OF GRACE EPIC UNIVERSAL |                   |
| 3     | 3    | <b>MIGUEL BOSE</b><br>MIGUEL BOSE                                   |                   |
| 4     | 4    | <b>SERGIO DALMA</b><br>SERGIO DALMA                                 |                   |
| 5     | NEW  | <b>SERGIAT SABINA</b><br>SERGIAT SABINA                             |                   |
| 6     | 6    | <b>OTTO Y LOS CITIPALLOS</b><br>OTTO Y LOS CITIPALLOS               |                   |
| 7     | 11   | <b>PORTA</b><br>PORTA                                               |                   |
| 8     | 8    | <b>JOANES</b><br>JOANES                                             |                   |
| 9     | 20   | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>BACK TO BLACK EMI                           |                   |
| 10    | 10   | <b>RIHANNA</b><br>R.I.D. (CD) SONY                                  |                   |

| FINLAND |      |                                                                       |                   |
|---------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WEEK    | LAST | SINGLES                                                               |                   |
| WEEK    | LAST |                                                                       |                   |
| 1       | NEW  | <b>OF SACRIFICE, LOSS AND REWARD</b><br>OF SACRIFICE, LOSS AND REWARD | FEBRUARY 27, 2008 |
| 2       | 1    | <b>MUN KOTI EI OOT TAALLA</b><br>MUN KOTI EI OOT TAALLA               |                   |
| 3       | NEW  | <b>HUOMISEN KYNNEL</b><br>HUOMISEN KYNNEL                             |                   |
| 4       | NEW  | <b>LIVING FOR TOMORROW</b><br>LIVING FOR TOMORROW                     |                   |
| 5       | NEW  | <b>NIL RECURRING</b><br>NIL RECURRING                                 |                   |
| 6       | 1    | <b>STAMINA</b><br>STAMINA                                             |                   |
| 7       | 2    | <b>LAURI TARKA &amp; ELONKERUU</b><br>LAURI TARKA & ELONKERUU         |                   |
| 8       | 3    | <b>HERRA YLPO &amp; JIMMUT</b><br>HERRA YLPO & JIMMUT                 |                   |
| 9       | 4    | <b>NAUKO ROTHKA &amp; RIKU MATTILA</b><br>NAUKO ROTHKA & RIKU MATTILA |                   |
| 10      | 5    | <b>KIIVIKKO</b><br>KIIVIKKO                                           |                   |

| GERMANY |      |                                                                        |                   |
|---------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WEEK    | LAST | ALBUMS                                                                 |                   |
| WEEK    | LAST |                                                                        |                   |
| 1       | 1    | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>BACK TO BLACK EMI                              | FEBRUARY 29, 2008 |
| 2       | NEW  | <b>WYSE GUYS</b><br>WYSE GUYS                                          |                   |
| 3       | NEW  | <b>DUSHIDO</b><br>DUSHIDO                                              |                   |
| 4       | 3    | <b>LEONIA LEWIS</b><br>LEONIA LEWIS                                    |                   |
| 5       | 2    | <b>ICH = ICH</b><br>THE WAY OF LOVE PRODUCTIONS                        |                   |
| 6       | 2    | <b>JACK JOHNSON</b><br>SLEEP THROUGH THE STATE OF GRACE EPIC UNIVERSAL |                   |
| 7       | 7    | <b>SOUNDTRACK</b><br>SOUNDTRACK                                        |                   |
| 8       | 2    | <b>MICHAEL JACKSON</b><br>THROUGH THE STATE OF GRACE EPIC UNIVERSAL    |                   |
| 9       | 1    | <b>LENNY KRAVITZ</b><br>IT IS THE WAY OF LOVE PRODUCTIONS              |                   |
| 10      | 12   | <b>JAMES BLUNT</b><br>ALL THE WAY (CD) SONY                            |                   |

| CANADA |      |                                                                        |               |
|--------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| WEEK   | LAST | ALBUMS                                                                 |               |
| WEEK   | LAST |                                                                        |               |
| 1      | 1    | <b>JACK JOHNSON</b><br>SLEEP THROUGH THE STATE OF GRACE EPIC UNIVERSAL | MARCH 3, 2008 |
| 2      | 2    | <b>SIMPLE PLAN</b><br>SIMPLE PLAN (CD) SONY                            |               |
| 3      | 3    | <b>CITY AND COLOUR</b><br>CITY AND COLOUR                              |               |
| 4      | NEW  | <b>THE TWEETS</b><br>THE TWEETS                                        |               |
| 5      | NEW  | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>THE WAY OF LOVE PRODUCTIONS                  |               |
| 6      | 10   | <b>SOUNDTRACK</b><br>SOUNDTRACK                                        |               |
| 7      | 8    | <b>K.D. LANG</b><br>NORTHERN PRODUCTIONS                               |               |
| 8      | 4    | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>BACK TO BLACK EMI                              |               |
| 9      | 7    | <b>LA COMPAGNIE CHOLE</b><br>LA COMPAGNIE CHOLE                        |               |
| 10     | 6    | <b>SOUNDTRACK</b><br>SOUNDTRACK                                        |               |

| MEXICO |      |                                                   |                   |
|--------|------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WEEK   | LAST | ALBUMS                                            |                   |
| WEEK   | LAST |                                                   |                   |
| 1      | 1    | <b>VICENTE FERNANDEZ</b><br>VICENTE FERNANDEZ     | FEBRUARY 29, 2008 |
| 2      | 2    | <b>ALEJANDRO FERNANDEZ</b><br>ALEJANDRO FERNANDEZ |                   |
| 3      | 3    | <b>HEROES DEL SILENCIO</b><br>HEROES DEL SILENCIO |                   |
| 4      | 4    | <b>EMMANUEL</b><br>EMMANUEL                       |                   |
| 5      | 5    | <b>PANDA</b><br>PANDA                             |                   |
| 6      | 6    | <b>MODA</b><br>MODA                               |                   |
| 7      | 7    | <b>SARAH BRIGHTMAN</b><br>SARAH BRIGHTMAN         |                   |
| 8      | 8    | <b>MIGUEL BOSE</b><br>MIGUEL BOSE                 |                   |
| 9      | 9    | <b>JOAN MANUEL SERRAT</b><br>JOAN MANUEL SERRAT   |                   |
| 10     | 10   | <b>YURIDIA</b><br>YURIDIA                         |                   |

| POLAND |      |                                                                     |                   |
|--------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WEEK   | LAST | ALBUMS                                                              |                   |
| WEEK   | LAST |                                                                     |                   |
| 1      | 1    | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS                           | FEBRUARY 27, 2008 |
| 2      | 2    | <b>FEEL</b><br>FEEL                                                 |                   |
| 3      | 3    | <b>LENNY KRAVITZ</b><br>IT IS THE WAY OF LOVE PRODUCTIONS           |                   |
| 4      | 4    | <b>MICHAEL JACKSON</b><br>THROUGH THE STATE OF GRACE EPIC UNIVERSAL |                   |
| 5      | 5    | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>BACK TO BLACK EMI                           |                   |
| 6      | 6    | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS                           |                   |
| 7      | 7    | <b>PIRANIELLA</b><br>PIRANIELLA                                     |                   |
| 8      | 8    | <b>VARIOUS ARTISTS</b><br>VARIOUS ARTISTS                           |                   |
| 9      | 9    | <b>ANDREA BOCELLI</b><br>ANDREA BOCELLI                             |                   |
| 10     | 10   | <b>THEY</b><br>THEY                                                 |                   |

| EURO DIGITAL SONGS |      |                                                           |               |
|--------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| WEEK               | LAST | DIGITAL SONGS                                             |               |
| WEEK               | LAST |                                                           |               |
| 1                  | 1    | <b>MERCY</b><br>MERCY                                     | MARCH 3, 2008 |
| 2                  | 2    | <b>DON'T STOP THE MUSIC</b><br>DON'T STOP THE MUSIC       |               |
| 3                  | 3    | <b>WHAT'S IT GONNA BE</b><br>WHAT'S IT GONNA BE           |               |
| 4                  | 4    | <b>BLEEDING LOVE</b><br>BLEEDING LOVE                     |               |
| 5                  | 5    | <b>HOCKSTAR</b><br>HOCKSTAR                               |               |
| 6                  | 6    | <b>APOLLOZEE</b><br>APOLLOZEE                             |               |
| 7                  | 7    | <b>NOW YOU'RE GONE</b><br>NOW YOU'RE GONE                 |               |
| 8                  | 8    | <b>CHASING PAVEMENTS</b><br>CHASING PAVEMENTS             |               |
| 9                  | 9    | <b>STOP AND STARE</b><br>STOP AND STARE                   |               |
| 10                 | 10   | <b>VALERIE</b><br>VALERIE                                 |               |
| 11                 | 11   | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>AMY WINEHOUSE                     |               |
| 12                 | 12   | <b>ONE</b><br>ONE                                         |               |
| 13                 | 13   | <b>PIECE OF ME</b><br>PIECE OF ME                         |               |
| 14                 | 14   | <b>WORK</b><br>WORK                                       |               |
| 15                 | 15   | <b>REHAB</b><br>REHAB                                     |               |
| 16                 | 16   | <b>CRANK THAT (SOULJA BOY)</b><br>CRANK THAT (SOULJA BOY) |               |
| 17                 | 17   | <b>LOW</b><br>LOW                                         |               |
| 18                 | 18   | <b>BACK TO BLACK</b><br>BACK TO BLACK                     |               |
| 19                 | 19   | <b>SCREAM</b><br>SCREAM                                   |               |

| EURO DIGITAL SPAIN |      |                                                                             |               |
|--------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| WEEK               | LAST | DIGITAL SONGS                                                               |               |
| WEEK               | LAST |                                                                             |               |
| 1                  | 1    | <b>DON'T STOP THE MUSIC</b><br>DON'T STOP THE MUSIC                         | MARCH 3, 2008 |
| 2                  | 2    | <b>CUANDO AMANECE</b><br>CUANDO AMANECE                                     |               |
| 3                  | 3    | <b>PARA TI SERIA</b><br>PARA TI SERIA                                       |               |
| 4                  | 4    | <b>REHAB</b><br>REHAB                                                       |               |
| 5                  | 5    | <b>DESTINATION CALABRIA</b><br>DESTINATION CALABRIA                         |               |
| 6                  | 6    | <b>NO ESTAMOS SOLOS (NO SIAMO SOLI)</b><br>NO ESTAMOS SOLOS (NO SIAMO SOLI) |               |
| 7                  | 7    | <b>PA MADRID</b><br>PA MADRID                                               |               |
| 8                  | 8    | <b>PAPELES MOJADOS</b><br>PAPELES MOJADOS                                   |               |
| 9                  | 9    | <b>NADA QUE PERDER</b><br>NADA QUE PERDER                                   |               |

| WALLONIA |      |                                                     |                   |
|----------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| WEEK     | LAST | SINGLES                                             |                   |
| WEEK     | LAST |                                                     |                   |
| 1        | 1    | <b>PARLA A MA MAIN</b><br>PARLA A MA MAIN           | FEBRUARY 27, 2008 |
| 2        | 2    | <b>NEW SOUL</b><br>NEW SOUL                         |                   |
| 3        | 3    | <b>DON'T STOP THE MUSIC</b><br>DON'T STOP THE MUSIC |                   |
| 4        | 4    | <b>ALIVE</b><br>ALIVE                               |                   |
| 5        | 5    | <b>APOLLOZEE</b><br>APOLLOZEE                       |                   |
| 6        | 6    | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>AMY WINEHOUSE               |                   |
| 7        | 7    | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>AMY WINEHOUSE               |                   |
| 8        | 8    | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>AMY WINEHOUSE               |                   |
| 9        | 9    | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>AMY WINEHOUSE               |                   |
| 10       | 10   | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b><br>AMY WINEHOUSE               |                   |

## EUROCHARTS

### SINGLE SALES

EUROCHARTS ARE COMPILED BY BILLBOARD FROM THE NATIONAL SINGLES AND ALBUM SALES CHARTS IN 35 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 27, 2008

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | ARTIST                      | ALBUM                           | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1    | NEW       | BLEEDING LOVE               | LEONA LEWIS                     | 1              |
| 2    | 1         | APOLLOZ                     | TRAVELING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT | 2              |
| 3    | 2         | MERCY                       | SHUT UP                         | 3              |
| 4    | 3         | DON'T STOP THE MUSIC        | DAVID NAVARRO                   | 4              |
| 5    | 4         | IL AVAIT LES MOTS           | DAVID NAVARRO                   | 5              |
| 6    | 5         | NOW YOU'RE GONE             | DAVID NAVARRO                   | 6              |
| 7    | 6         | KUSCHEL SONG                | DAVID NAVARRO                   | 7              |
| 8    | 7         | NO ONE                      | DAVID NAVARRO                   | 8              |
| 9    | 8         | WHAT'S IT GONNA BE          | DAVID NAVARRO                   | 9              |
| 10   | 9         | ROCKSTAR                    | DAVID NAVARRO                   | 10             |
| 11   | 10        | PRICE OF ME                 | DAVID NAVARRO                   | 11             |
| 12   | 11        | I'LL BE WAITING             | DAVID NAVARRO                   | 12             |
| 13   | 12        | BETTINA (ZICH DIR BITTE...) | DAVID NAVARRO                   | 13             |

### ALBUMS

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 27, 2008

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | ARTIST          | ALBUM                           | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1    | NEW       | AMY WINEHOUSE   | BACK TO BLACK                   | 1              |
| 2    | 1         | MICHAEL JACKSON | TRAVELING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT | 2              |
| 3    | 2         | LEONA LEWIS     | BLEEDING LOVE                   | 3              |
| 4    | 3         | DAVID NAVARRO   | NOW YOU'RE GONE                 | 4              |
| 5    | 4         | LENNY KRAVITZ   | IT'S TIME FOR A LOVE INVOLUTION | 5              |
| 6    | 5         | THE FEELING     | THE FEELING                     | 6              |
| 7    | 6         | MIKA            | LOVE & DEATH                    | 7              |
| 8    | 7         | RIHANNA         | GOOD GIRL GONE BAD              | 8              |
| 9    | 8         | NICKELBACK      | ALL THE RIGHT REASONS           | 9              |
| 10   | 9         | WISSE GUYS      | THE WISSE GUYS                  | 10             |
| 11   | 10        | AMY WINEHOUSE   | BACK TO BLACK                   | 11             |
| 12   | 11        | SIMPLE PLAN     | THUNDERBOLT & LIGHT             | 12             |
| 13   | 12        | AMY WINEHOUSE   | BACK TO BLACK                   | 13             |
| 14   | 13        | JAMES BLUNT     | THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY        | 14             |
| 15   | 14        | BUSHIDOH        | THE BUSHIDOH                    | 15             |

### RADIO AIRPLAY

RADIO AIRPLAY INFORMATION FROM 35 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS MONITORED AND TRACKED BY NIELSEN MUSIC CONTROL. WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 27, 2008

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | ARTIST               | ALBUM         | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1    | NEW       | BLEEDING LOVE        | LEONA LEWIS   | 1              |
| 2    | 1         | NO ONE               | DAVID NAVARRO | 2              |
| 3    | 2         | HATE THAT I LOVE YOU | DAVID NAVARRO | 3              |
| 4    | 3         | DON'T STOP THE MUSIC | DAVID NAVARRO | 4              |
| 5    | 4         | HEY THERE DELILAH    | DAVID NAVARRO | 5              |
| 6    | 5         | IN MY ARMS           | DAVID NAVARRO | 6              |
| 7    | 6         | ABOUT YOU NOW        | DAVID NAVARRO | 7              |
| 8    | 7         | SHADOW OF THE DAY    | DAVID NAVARRO | 8              |
| 9    | 8         | I'LL BE WAITING      | DAVID NAVARRO | 9              |
| 10   | 9         | NEW SMOUL            | DAVID NAVARRO | 10             |
| 11   | 10        | IN MY ARMS           | DAVID NAVARRO | 11             |
| 12   | 11        | BUBBLY               | DAVID NAVARRO | 12             |
| 13   | 12        | CHASING PAVEMENTS    | DAVID NAVARRO | 13             |

35-51 COUNTRIES COMPILED BY MIDEM

midem

chart

## TOP CHRISTIAN

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | ARTIST                                           | ALBUM       | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1    | 1         | KIRK FRANKLIN                                    | THE NEW MAN | 1              |
| 2    | 2         | MERCY                                            | SHUT UP     | 2              |
| 3    | 3         | FLYLEAF                                          | THE NEW MAN | 3              |
| 4    | 4         | VARIOUS ARTISTS                                  | THE NEW MAN | 4              |
| 5    | 5         | NATALIE GRANT                                    | THE NEW MAN | 5              |
| 6    | 6         | CHRIS TOWLE                                      | THE NEW MAN | 6              |
| 7    | 7         | SKILLET                                          | THE NEW MAN | 7              |
| 8    | 8         | PASSION WORSHIP BAND                             | THE NEW MAN | 8              |
| 9    | 9         | VARIOUS ARTISTS                                  | THE NEW MAN | 9              |
| 10   | 10        | STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN                            | THE NEW MAN | 10             |
| 11   | 11        | CANTON JONES                                     | THE NEW MAN | 11             |
| 12   | 12        | POINT OF GRACE                                   | THE NEW MAN | 12             |
| 13   | 13        | TOBYMAC                                          | THE NEW MAN | 13             |
| 14   | 14        | SANCTUS REAL                                     | THE NEW MAN | 14             |
| 15   | 15        | CLINT BROWN                                      | THE NEW MAN | 15             |
| 16   | 16        | MATTHEW WEST                                     | THE NEW MAN | 16             |
| 17   | 17        | UNLEASHED                                        | THE NEW MAN | 17             |
| 18   | 18        | DAVID CROWDER BAND                               | THE NEW MAN | 18             |
| 19   | 19        | BARLOWGIRL                                       | THE NEW MAN | 19             |
| 20   | 20        | BILL & GLORIA GATHER WITH THE HOMECOMING FRIENDS | THE NEW MAN | 20             |
| 21   | 21        | THE BROOKLYN TABERNACLE CHOIR                    | THE NEW MAN | 21             |
| 22   | 22        | JEREMY CAMP                                      | THE NEW MAN | 22             |

## TOP GOSPEL

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | ARTIST                              | ALBUM       | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1    | 1         | KIRK FRANKLIN                       | THE NEW MAN | 1              |
| 2    | 2         | MARVIN SAPP                         | THE NEW MAN | 2              |
| 3    | 3         | KIRK FRANKLIN                       | THE NEW MAN | 3              |
| 4    | 4         | CANTON JONES                        | THE NEW MAN | 4              |
| 5    | 5         | SHAKIMAN GLORY MINISTRY             | THE NEW MAN | 5              |
| 6    | 6         | ISRAEL & NEW BREED                  | THE NEW MAN | 6              |
| 7    | 7         | CLINT BROWN                         | THE NEW MAN | 7              |
| 8    | 8         | THE BROOKLYN TABERNACLE CHOIR       | THE NEW MAN | 8              |
| 9    | 9         | THE CLARK SISTERS                   | THE NEW MAN | 9              |
| 10   | 10        | TRINITY 5.7                         | THE NEW MAN | 10             |
| 11   | 11        | SHIRLEY CAESAR                      | THE NEW MAN | 11             |
| 12   | 12        | VARIOUS ARTISTS                     | THE NEW MAN | 12             |
| 13   | 13        | VARIOUS ARTISTS                     | THE NEW MAN | 13             |
| 14   | 14        | RICKY DALLAS & NEW G                | THE NEW MAN | 14             |
| 15   | 15        | THE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA           | THE NEW MAN | 15             |
| 16   | 16        | J MOSS                              | THE NEW MAN | 16             |
| 17   | 17        | LEE WILLIAMS AND THE SPIRITUAL QCS  | THE NEW MAN | 17             |
| 18   | 18        | VARIOUS ARTISTS                     | THE NEW MAN | 18             |
| 19   | 19        | BECKY HALL                          | THE NEW MAN | 19             |
| 20   | 20        | DAVID NELSON                        | THE NEW MAN | 20             |
| 21   | 21        | DEWAYNE WOODS & WHEN SINGERS PURSUE | THE NEW MAN | 21             |
| 22   | 22        | BISHOP PAUL S. MORTON               | THE NEW MAN | 22             |
| 23   | 23        | TRINITY 5.7                         | THE NEW MAN | 23             |

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | ARTIST                                           | ALBUM       | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1    | 1         | TRINITY 5.7                                      | THE NEW MAN | 1              |
| 2    | 2         | VARIOUS ARTISTS                                  | THE NEW MAN | 2              |
| 3    | 3         | BILL & GLORIA GATHER WITH THE HOMECOMING FRIENDS | THE NEW MAN | 3              |
| 4    | 4         | THIRSDAY                                         | THE NEW MAN | 4              |
| 5    | 5         | VARIOUS ARTISTS                                  | THE NEW MAN | 5              |
| 6    | 6         | MANDISA                                          | THE NEW MAN | 6              |
| 7    | 7         | DAVID NELSON                                     | THE NEW MAN | 7              |
| 8    | 8         | THOUSAND FOOT CRAWLER                            | THE NEW MAN | 8              |
| 9    | 9         | KATHRYN SCOTT                                    | THE NEW MAN | 9              |
| 10   | 10        | NEWBOYS                                          | THE NEW MAN | 10             |
| 11   | 11        | MAT KEARNEY                                      | THE NEW MAN | 11             |
| 12   | 12        | DEMON HUNTER                                     | THE NEW MAN | 12             |
| 13   | 13        | AMY GRANT                                        | THE NEW MAN | 13             |
| 14   | 14        | J MOSS                                           | THE NEW MAN | 14             |
| 15   | 15        | HILLSONS                                         | THE NEW MAN | 15             |
| 16   | 16        | VARIOUS ARTISTS                                  | THE NEW MAN | 16             |
| 17   | 17        | PUSH OF FOOLS                                    | THE NEW MAN | 17             |
| 18   | 18        | THE ALMOST                                       | THE NEW MAN | 18             |
| 19   | 19        | GROUP I CREW                                     | THE NEW MAN | 19             |
| 20   | 20        | UNITED                                           | THE NEW MAN | 20             |
| 21   | 21        | DAVID CROWDER BAND                               | THE NEW MAN | 21             |
| 22   | 22        | JOSLIN GROVE CHORAL SOCIETY                      | THE NEW MAN | 22             |
| 23   | 23        | FAMILY FORCE 5                                   | THE NEW MAN | 23             |
| 24   | 24        | SAVON PROFF                                      | THE NEW MAN | 24             |
| 25   | 25        | NEW ORLEANS                                      | THE NEW MAN | 25             |

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | ARTIST                          | ALBUM       | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1    | 1         | BYRON CAGE                      | THE NEW MAN | 1              |
| 2    | 2         | DEMON HUNTER                    | THE NEW MAN | 2              |
| 3    | 3         | LEONARD                         | THE NEW MAN | 3              |
| 4    | 4         | JEFF MAJORS                     | THE NEW MAN | 4              |
| 5    | 5         | TOLANDA ADAMS                   | THE NEW MAN | 5              |
| 6    | 6         | THE NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHORUS   | THE NEW MAN | 6              |
| 7    | 7         | PATTI LABELLE                   | THE NEW MAN | 7              |
| 8    | 8         | T.D. JAMES                      | THE NEW MAN | 8              |
| 9    | 9         | TRINITY 5.7                     | THE NEW MAN | 9              |
| 10   | 10        | DETRICK HADDON                  | THE NEW MAN | 10             |
| 11   | 11        | THE CANTON SPIRITUALS           | THE NEW MAN | 11             |
| 12   | 12        | FRANK FRANKLIN                  | THE NEW MAN | 12             |
| 13   | 13        | VARIOUS ARTISTS                 | THE NEW MAN | 13             |
| 14   | 14        | JUANITA BYNUM & JONATHAN BUTLER | THE NEW MAN | 14             |
| 15   | 15        | BEVERLY CRANFORD                | THE NEW MAN | 15             |
| 16   | 16        | BEDD WINANS                     | THE NEW MAN | 16             |
| 17   | 17        | RONALD LAWRENCE                 | THE NEW MAN | 17             |
| 18   | 18        | VARIOUS ARTISTS                 | THE NEW MAN | 18             |
| 19   | 19        | FRANK FRANKLIN                  | THE NEW MAN | 19             |
| 20   | 20        | DAVID NELSON                    | THE NEW MAN | 20             |
| 21   | 21        | SMOKE NORFOLK                   | THE NEW MAN | 21             |
| 22   | 22        | PIZZO C. MULLEN                 | THE NEW MAN | 22             |
| 23   | 23        | NECKEAS WALKER                  | THE NEW MAN | 23             |

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## TOP HEATSEEKERS

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | ARTIST                                  | Album                             | Label   | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| 1    | NEW       | <b>THE RAVEONETTES</b>                  | Lost Lull                         | Capitol | 1              |
| 2    | NEW       | <b>KINGDOM OF SORROW</b>                | Kingdom Of Sorrow                 | Capitol | 1              |
| 3    | NEW       | <b>RAY DAVIES</b>                       | For Emma, Forever Ago             | Capitol | 1              |
| 4    | 6         | <b>GREATEST FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH</b> | The Way Of The Fur                | Capitol | 1              |
| 5    | NEW       | <b>BON IVER</b>                         | For Emma, Forever Ago             | Capitol | 1              |
| 6    | 7         | <b>DRAGONFORCE</b>                      | Inhuman Rampage                   | Capitol | 1              |
| 7    | NEW       | <b>PAUL THORN</b>                       | A Long Way From Tupelo            | Capitol | 1              |
| 8    | NEW       | <b>THE MOUNTAIN GOATS</b>               | Heretic Poet                      | Capitol | 1              |
| 9    | NEW       | <b>GARY LOURIS</b>                      | Heretic Poet                      | Capitol | 1              |
| 10   | 3         | <b>WE THE KINGS</b>                     | We The Kings                      | Capitol | 1              |
| 11   | 4         | <b>MGMT</b>                             | Oracular Spectacular              | Capitol | 1              |
| 12   | 1         | <b>LEVON HELM</b>                       | Oracular Spectacular              | Capitol | 1              |
| 13   | 13        | <b>NICK SWARDSON</b>                    | Party                             | Capitol | 1              |
| 14   | 2         | <b>AIRBOURNE</b>                        | Runnin' Wild                      | Capitol | 1              |
| 15   | 6         | <b>LOS CUATROS DE SINALOA</b>           | Pura Vida                         | Capitol | 1              |
| 16   | 5         | <b>HOT CHIP</b>                         | Made In The Dark                  | Capitol | 1              |
| 17   | NEW       | <b>A DAY TO REMEMBER</b>                | For Those Who Have Heart          | Capitol | 1              |
| 18   | NEW       | <b>ALLISON MOORE</b>                    | Mockingbird                       | Capitol | 1              |
| 19   | NEW       | <b>DJ CLAY</b>                          | Let 'Em Bleed: The Maxi-EP Vol. 1 | Capitol | 1              |
| 20   | NEW       | <b>DAVE ETHERAL</b>                     | Fury & Flames                     | Capitol | 1              |
| 21   | 15        | <b>BLACK MOUNTAIN</b>                   | In The Future                     | Capitol | 1              |
| 22   | 5         | <b>BRITISH SEA POWER</b>                | Do You Like Rock Music?           | Capitol | 1              |
| 23   | 22        | <b>GRUPO NUEVA VIDA</b>                 | Mujeres Como Religioes            | Capitol | 1              |
| 24   | 13        | <b>HORRORPOPS</b>                       | Kiss Kiss Kill Kill               | Capitol | 1              |
| 25   | 14        | <b>WINDS OF PLAGUE</b>                  | Decimate The Weak                 | Capitol | 1              |

The indie singer in this album has the potential to be a solo artist, as he has yet to reach the top 10 of the Billboard 200 in his own right.



The solo debut of Bon Iver's lead singer, Justin Vernon, is a masterpiece of indie folk music.

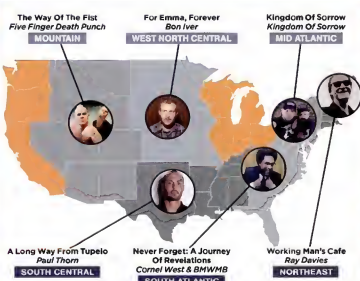
With its slick, indie sound, this album is a must-listen for fans of indie rock.

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | ARTIST                                 | Album                                | Label   | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| 26   | NEW       | <b>DEAD TO FALL</b>                    | Are You Serious?                     | Capitol | 1              |
| 27   | NEW       | <b>EVERY AVERAGE</b>                   | Shh... Just Go With It               | Capitol | 1              |
| 28   | 44        | <b>METRO STATION</b>                   | Metro Station                        | Capitol | 1              |
| 29   | NEW       | <b>EYES SET TO KILL</b>                | Reach                                | Capitol | 1              |
| 30   | 7         | <b>LA ARROLDORA BANDA EL LIMON</b>     | La Historia De La Arroldora          | Capitol | 1              |
| 31   | NEW       | <b>FOUR LETTER LIE</b>                 | What A Terrible Thing To Say         | Capitol | 1              |
| 32   | 21        | <b>THE SPILL CANVAS</b>                | No Really, I'm Fine                  | Capitol | 1              |
| 33   | 10        | <b>JOSH KELLEY</b>                     | Special Company                      | Capitol | 1              |
| 34   | 17        | <b>FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS</b>         | The Distant Future (EP)              | Capitol | 1              |
| 35   | 23        | <b>SHARON JONES &amp; THE DAPKINGS</b> | 100 Days, 100 Nights                 | Capitol | 1              |
| 36   | 27        | <b>DEMETRI MARTIN</b>                  | Board Up The House                   | Capitol | 1              |
| 37   | NEW       | <b>Egypt Central</b>                   | Egypt Central                        | Capitol | 1              |
| 38   | 31        | <b>SPICE PUPPIES</b>                   | Dressed Up As Life                   | Capitol | 1              |
| 39   | 19        | <b>BOB MOULD</b>                       | Distort                              | Capitol | 1              |
| 40   | 27        | <b>CARDENALES DE NUEVO LEON</b>        | 25 Aniversario: Edicion Limitada     | Capitol | 1              |
| 41   | NEW       | <b>JO JO JOHNS FALCON</b>              | Los Mejores 99 Chistes Vol. 1        | Capitol | 1              |
| 42   | NEW       | <b>THE MAINE</b>                       | The Way We Talk (EP)                 | Capitol | 1              |
| 43   | NEW       | <b>BLER HANARD &amp; MARKEA PLOVIA</b> | The Sweet Season                     | Capitol | 1              |
| 44   | NEW       | <b>HURT</b>                            | Vol. II                              | Capitol | 1              |
| 45   | 34        | <b>GRAND ARCHIVES</b>                  | The Grand Archives                   | Capitol | 1              |
| 46   | 38        | <b>XTRM</b>                            | Haciendo Historia                    | Capitol | 1              |
| 47   | NEW       | <b>LA ARROLDORA BANDA EL LIMON</b>     | Linea De Oro: En Los Puros Huesos... | Capitol | 1              |
| 48   | NEW       | <b>AMERICAN MUSIC CLUB</b>             | The Golden Age                       | Capitol | 1              |

## TASTEMAKERS

| WEEK | LAST WEEK | ARTIST                              | Album                     | Label   | WEEKS ON CHART |
|------|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|----------------|
| 1    | 3         | <b>JACK JOHNSON</b>                 | Keep The Strings Attached | Capitol | 1              |
| 2    | 4         | <b>SOUNDTRACK</b>                   | And The Winner Is...      | Capitol | 1              |
| 3    | 5         | <b>VAMPIRE WEEKEND</b>              | Wine, Wine, Wine          | Capitol | 1              |
| 4    | 3         | <b>AMY WINEHOUSE</b>                | Back To Black             | Capitol | 1              |
| 5    | 2         | <b>MICHAEL JACKSON</b>              | Thriller                  | Capitol | 1              |
| 6    | NEW       | <b>THE RAVEONETTES</b>              | Lost Lull                 | Capitol | 1              |
| 7    | 5         | <b>RADIOHEAD</b>                    | In Rainbows               | Capitol | 1              |
| 8    | NEW       | <b>RAY DAVIES</b>                   | For Emma, Forever Ago     | Capitol | 1              |
| 9    | NEW       | <b>THE MOUNTAIN GOATS</b>           | Heretic Poet              | Capitol | 1              |
| 10   | NEW       | <b>KINGDOM OF SORROW</b>            | Kingdom Of Sorrow         | Capitol | 1              |
| 11   | 7         | <b>HERBIE Hancock</b>               | Harlem Nights             | Capitol | 1              |
| 12   | NEW       | <b>MIKE DOUGHY</b>                  | Golden Era                | Capitol | 1              |
| 13   | NEW       | <b>ROBERT PLANT / ALISON KRAUSS</b> | Up With People            | Capitol | 1              |
| 14   | NEW       | <b>GARY LOURIS</b>                  | Heretic Poet              | Capitol | 1              |
| 15   | NEW       | <b>NICK LOWE</b>                    | Just As I Am              | Capitol | 1              |

## REGIONAL HEATSEEKER #1s



## BREAKING & ENTERING

Dallas Green, of post-hardcore act Alexisonfire, quietly launched City and Colour as an acoustic side project, but new album "Bring Me Your Son" made a noisy entrance on Top Heatseekers, debuting at No. 11 last issue. Find out how Green balances his acts on billboard.com.



Go to [www.billboard.com/breaking](http://www.billboard.com/breaking) to discover exciting artists making their inaugural chart news week.

## PROGRESS REPORT

Basshunter, "Now You're Gone" Clubby tune by the Danish dance act (aka Jonas Erik Alberg) rises 21-13 on Hot Dance Airplay. The track, a former No. 1 on the Official U.K. Charts Co.'s singles tally, also sees its third straight weekly increase in U.S. digital sales.

HEATSEEKERS: The new album by Dallas Green, of post-hardcore act Alexisonfire, quietly launched City and Colour as an acoustic side project, but new album "Bring Me Your Son" made a noisy entrance on Top Heatseekers, debuting at No. 11 last issue. Find out how Green balances his acts on billboard.com.



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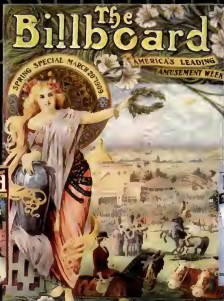
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# EXECUTIVE TURNTABLE

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**RECORD COMPANIES:** Warner Music Group promotes **Michael Nash** to executive VP of digital strategy and business development, effective June 1. He has served as senior VP since Feb. 1, 2000. Nash succeeds **Alejandro Zubieta**, who will remain with WMG through June.

**Razor & Tie** Entertainment ups **Rob Mason** to manager of promotions. He was coordinator.

**PUBLISHING:** Sony/ATV Music Publishing names **Joseph Puzio** CFO for the publisher's worldwide operations. He was senior VP of worldwide finance at sports marketing firm IMG.

**EMI Music Publishing U.K.** names **Daniel Lloyd Jones** A&R manager. He was press officer at Warner Bros. Records.

**Palinda Publishing**, a unit of Galgo Music Group, promotes **Ben Anglin** to senior VP of talent development. He was creative director.

**SI Songs America** names **David Polemni** VP of creative services. He was an independent consultant at Dimensional Music Publishing.

**Cherry Lane Music Publishing** elevates **Jill Pedone** to coordinator of creative services and marketing. She was an assistant.



**DISTRIBUTION:** RED Distribution appoints **Tony Bruno** to senior VP of marketing. He was VP.

**TOURING:** The 7,200-seat **Show Me Center** on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, names **Jim Barbati** OM. He was VP/GM at venue management firm PMI in Green Bay, Wis.

**Facility management/consulting services** firm **VenueWorks** names **Wolf Larson** executive director of the new **Burnsville Performing Arts Center** in Minnesota. He was assistant GM at the **Flint Center for the Performing Arts** in Cupertino, Calif.

**MEDIA:** VHI promotes **Leah Horwitz** to VP of music talent and creative development. She was senior director of music and talent relations.

—Edited by Mitchell Peters

# GOODWORKS

## BLOOD FOR DOWNLOADS

Music Saves Lives has partnered with Loud Bytes and Binary Sounds to give away 400,000 free-music download cards to blood donors during MSL drives at universities and high schools across the country. The download cards feature tracks from 18 acts, including Plain White T's, the All-American Rejects, Pennywise, Bad Religion, Motion City Soundtrack, NOFX and the Street Drum Corps. The program launched in mid-February. Founded in 2005, MSL focuses on education about blood donation and bone marrow registry.

## McDONALD TO HOST CHARITY GOLF EVENT

Former Lonestar singer **Richie McDonald** will host a golf tournament April 7-8 in Nashville to benefit **Fed The Children** and the **Minnie Pearl Cancer Foundation**. Musicians and sports figures will gather at the **Hermitage Golf Course** April 8 for a day of golf, to be followed by an all-star jam session that night at the **Cadillac Ranch**. McDonald and other to-be-announced artists will perform. A donation at the door is required for admittance to the concert.

# BACKBEAT



## BILLBOARD AND CHILDREN UNITING NATIONS OSCAR PARTY

On Feb. 24, Billboard teamed up with Children Uniting Nations for its ninth annual Academy Awards viewing and post-show party at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. Hosted by Tom Arnold, Christine Devine, Tommy Davidson and B.D. Freeman, the black-tie music-business event honored Hollywood's finest, celebrating the dreams and achievements of the entertainment industry, while hoping to give at-risk and foster children all over the world a chance to reach their own dreams. The event featured performances by Line 1 (Cirque du Soleil) and Jil Agrot, the voice of *Earth Day* in *Picthouse's* "La Vie en Rose," and was followed by an afterparty hosted by Davidson, Doug E. Fresh and DJ Spenberle. The Children Uniting Nations Angel Awards went to Ice-T, General Romeo Delaine and mentors from Foxyah Middle School in South Central Los Angeles. (PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL PHILLIPS/VERVE.COM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

- 1 From left: Lil Ice-T, model CoCo and rapper/actor Ice-T
- 2 Actress Gretchen Becker with actor Martin Landau
- 3 Philanthropist/community leader Richard Ziman with his wife, Children Uniting Nations founder/charwoman Daphna Ziman
- 4 Actress Mia Farrow of "Fame" and "The Young & the Restless"
- 5 From left: Fabian Sanchez, Derek Hough, Cheryl Burke and Tony Danza of "Dancing With the Stars."

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLEY GALEX

continued on page 74



## INSIDE TRACK

## ANGLOPHILIA

As Billboard reported last week, revered/reunited U.K. rock outfit the Verve is recording a new album but does not presently have a U.S. record deal. Track hears one potential home could be the U.K.-friendly confines of ATO Records, which houses dance titan Underworld on its Side One Records imprint and, of course, Radiohead, which released "In Rainbows" on ATO's TBD label. Plus, ATO and its affiliated Red Light Management are home to industry vets who have prior experience working the Verve in America. The Richard Ashcroft-led group just con-

firmed a handful of U.S. dates surrounding its April 25 appearance at Coachella, including a two-night stand at New York's Madison Theater at Madison Square Garden.

## LOUDER 'VOICES'

Momentum for Sara Bareilles' Epic album "Little Voices" keeps building; the set reaches a new peak at No. 7 on the Billboard 200 this week, while the single "Love Song" moves to a new high of No. 4. Striking while the iron is hot, Epic on March 18 will release an expanded edition of the album, including



a second disc of versions taped for Clear Channel's "Stripsted" series, plus interviews and videos. "Little Voices" is now at 403,000 copies in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan.



## BILLBOARD AND CHILDREN UNITE OSCAR PARTY

continued from page 73

- 1 From left: business leader/nonprofit professional **Laa H. Wallech**, councilman **Bernard Perks**, **Richard Ziman** and councilwoman **Wendy Grauel**
- 2 Rapper **Darryl "DMC" McDaniel**
- 3 From left: Emmy Award-winning Los Angeles news anchor/telev host **Christine Devine**, **Ice-T**, with his **Angel Award**, and **Daphne Ziman**
- 4 salsa music sensation **Sirko Belyan** with singer **Al Aigrot**
- 5 Actor **Steve Guttenberg** and actress **Marlaa Mattin**
- 6 Actress/Children United Nations director of development **Nicole Sherwin** with actor **Cristian de la Fuente**
- 7 Actors/telev co-hosts **Tom Arnold**, left, and **Tommy Davidson**
- 8 **Line 1** treated the crowd to an amazing acrobatic performance
- 9 Grammy Award-nominated Christian artist **Seroh Kelly** arrives at the bash
- 10 From left: Miss USA **Rachel Smith**, actor **Darius Love** and singer/actress **Christine Millen**



## INSIDE TRACK

### CITIZEN ON PATROL

Citizen Cope is preparing himself for life after major labels. The Brooklyn singer/songwriter (aka Clarence Greenwood) was recently released from RCA, which put out his last two albums, "The Clarence Greenwood Recordings" (2004) and 2006's "Every Waking Moment." (His self-titled 2002 debut came out on DreamWorks.) Now, Cope tells *Track* he's weighing his options as he prepares to start work on his fourth album. "I'm kind of considering my own imprint, maybe in conjunction with a major label, but we'll see." As for his new stuff, Cope plans to start recording in May or June and may release a live project in the interim.



CITIZEN COPE



CITIZEN COPE: JEFFREY CLARK

# OFF THE CHART!

THE WORLD'S BEST SELLING ALBUM IS THE WORLD'S BEST SELLING ALBUM...**AGAIN!**

25 years later, Michael Jackson's masterpiece is a worldwide phenomenon all over again. It continues to dominate sales in its new, expanded anniversary edition: *Thriller 25*.

## THRILLER 25 AROUND THE WORLD:

PAN-EUROPEAN CHARTS: #11

FRANCE: #1 + #1 on iTunes

JAPAN: #1

BELGIUM: #1 + #1 on iTunes

COLOMBIA: #1

US: #2 best-selling album -

#1 in Billboard Top Pop  
Catalog Chart

AUSTRALIA: #2

DENMARK: #2

GERMANY: #2

MEXICO: #2

NORWAY: #2

NETHERLANDS: #2

KOREA: #2

PHILIPPINES: #2

SWITZERLAND: #2

SWEDEN: #2

UK: #3

BRAZIL: #3

NEW ZEALAND: #3

PORTUGAL: #3

CANADA: #4

SPAIN: #4

POLAND: #4

AUSTRIA: #5

IRELAND: #5

ITALY: #6

CZECH REPUBLIC: #6

GREECE: #6

HONG KONG: #7

FINLAND: #10

*Thriller*  
**25**

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST  
SELLING ALBUM  
OF ALL TIME

*Michael Jackson*

*Epic*

**K**  
M.J. MUSIC

**L**  
LEGACY

CMG  
COMMERCIAL  
MUSIC GROUP  
SONY BMG  
MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

# THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS RULES

AFTER 6 YEARS FOUND  
LURKING IN ARENAS!!

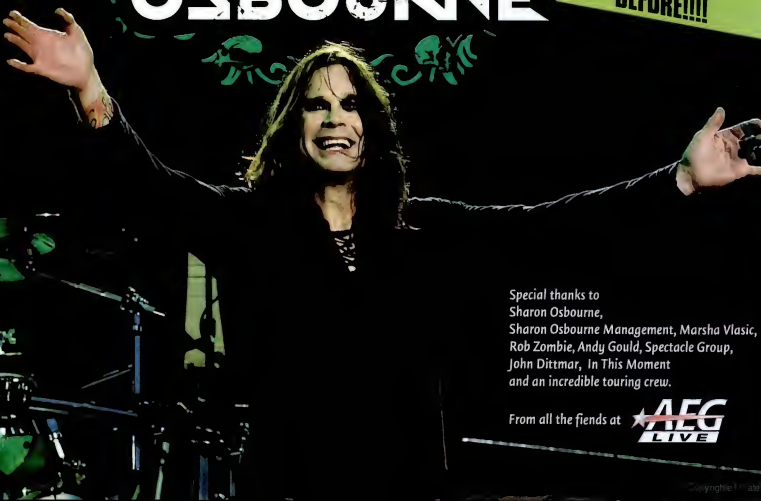
ROCKED  
CANADA  
TO IT'S  
CORE!

RETURNED TO  
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN AFTER  
23 YEARS AND CONQUERED!!!



OZZY  
OSBOURNE

DARED TO TREAD  
WHERE NO MAN  
HAS GONE  
BEFORE!!!!



Special thanks to  
Sharon Osbourne,  
Sharon Osbourne Management, Marsha Vlasic,  
Rob Zombie, Andy Gould, Spectacle Group,  
John Dittmar, In This Moment  
and an incredible touring crew.

From all the fiends at

**AEG**  
LIVE